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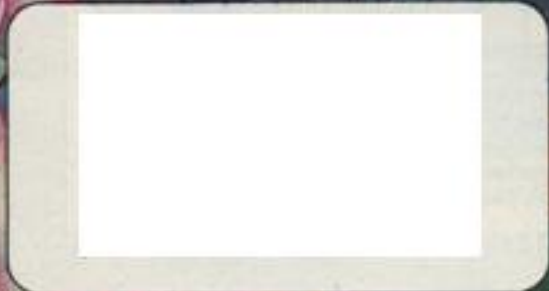
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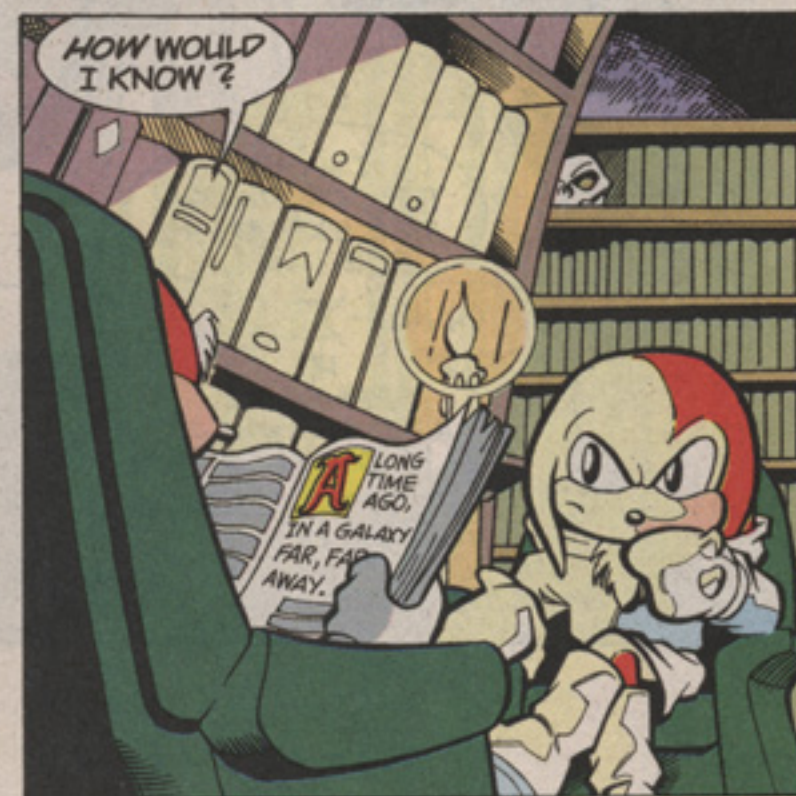
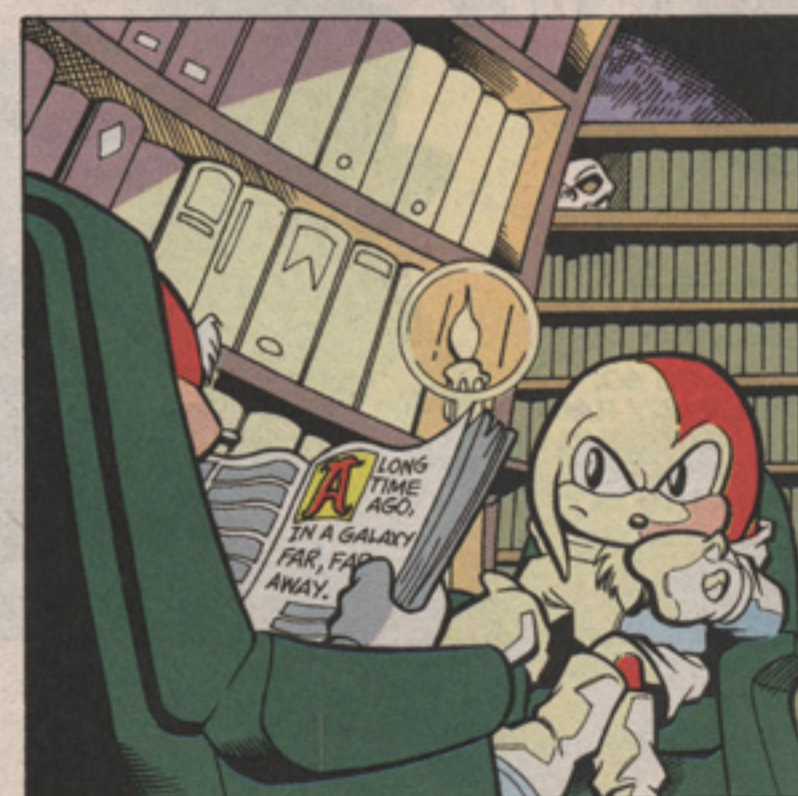
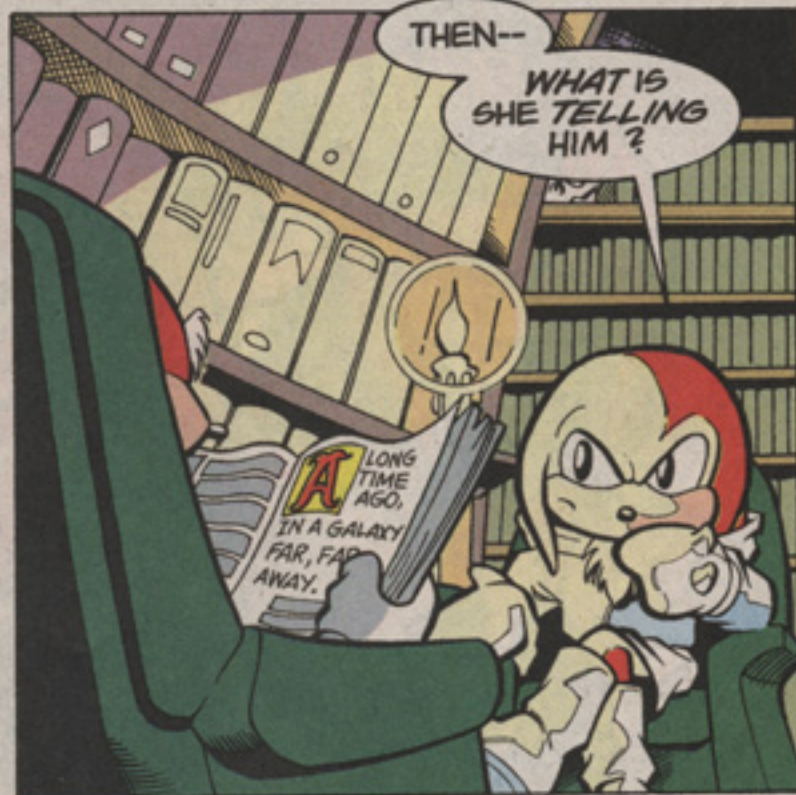
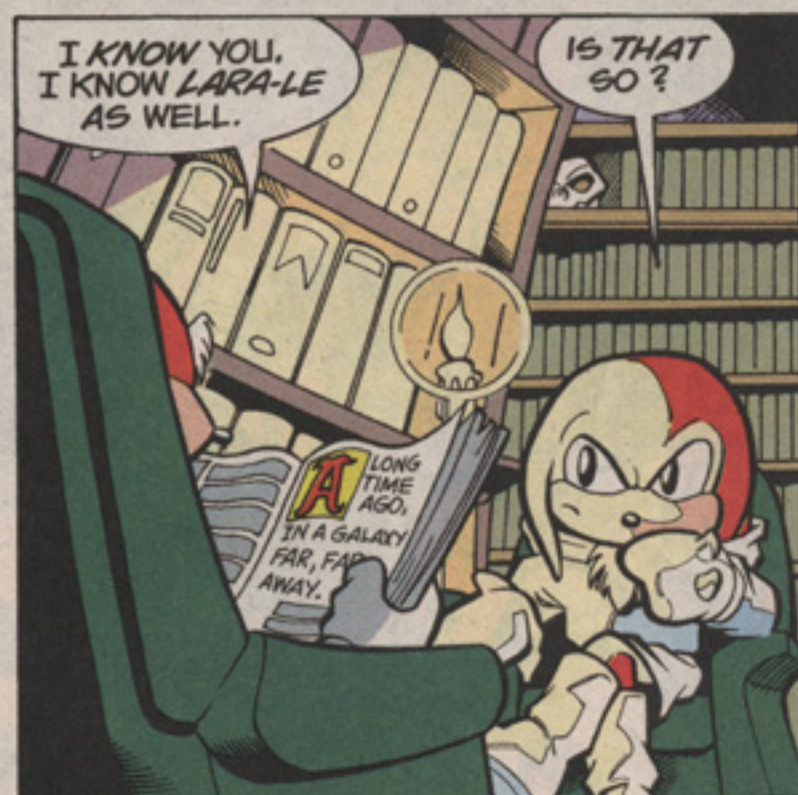
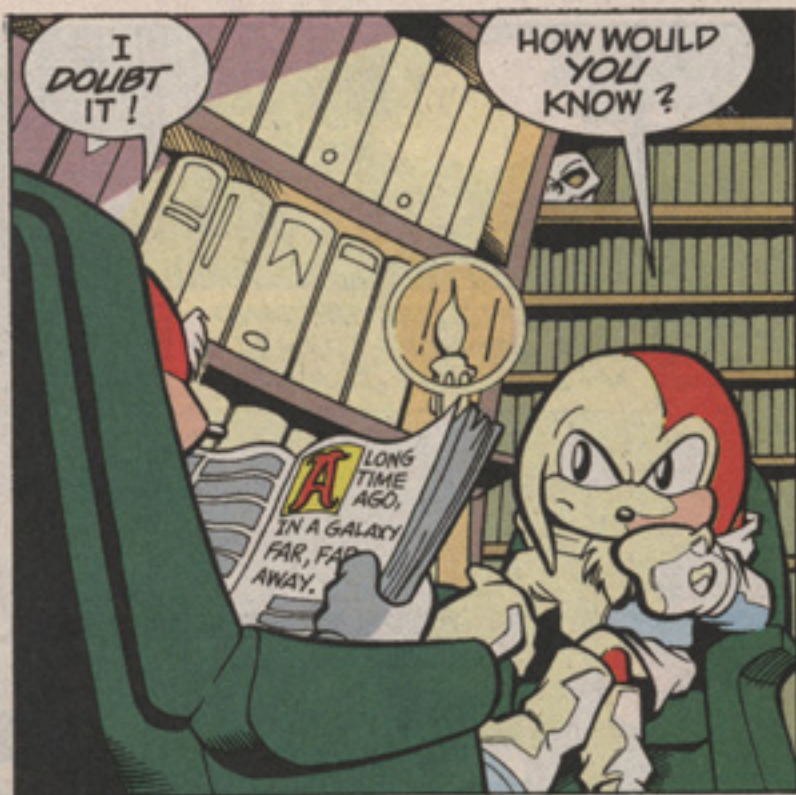
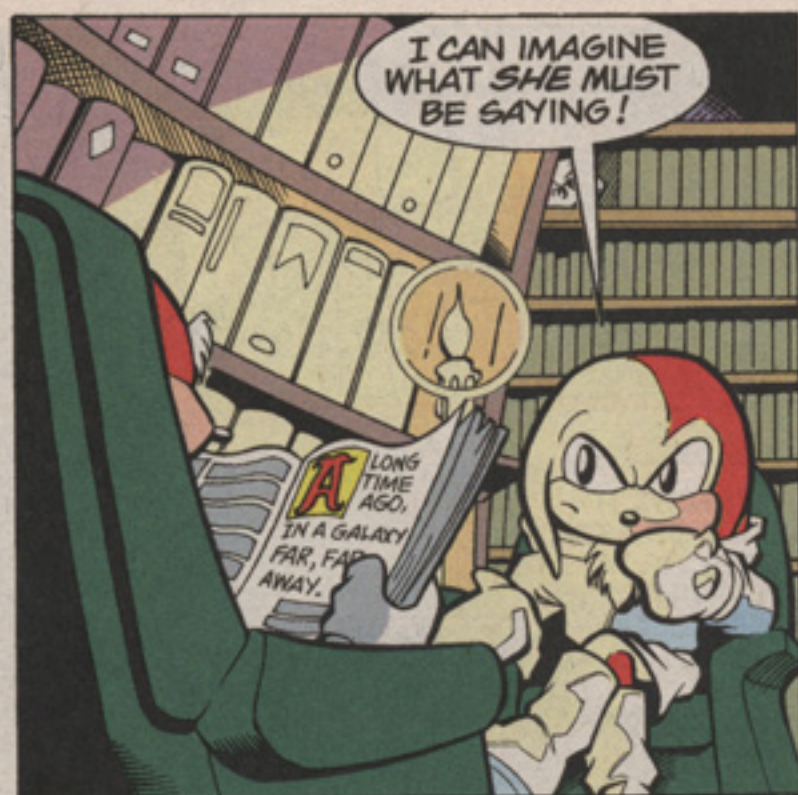
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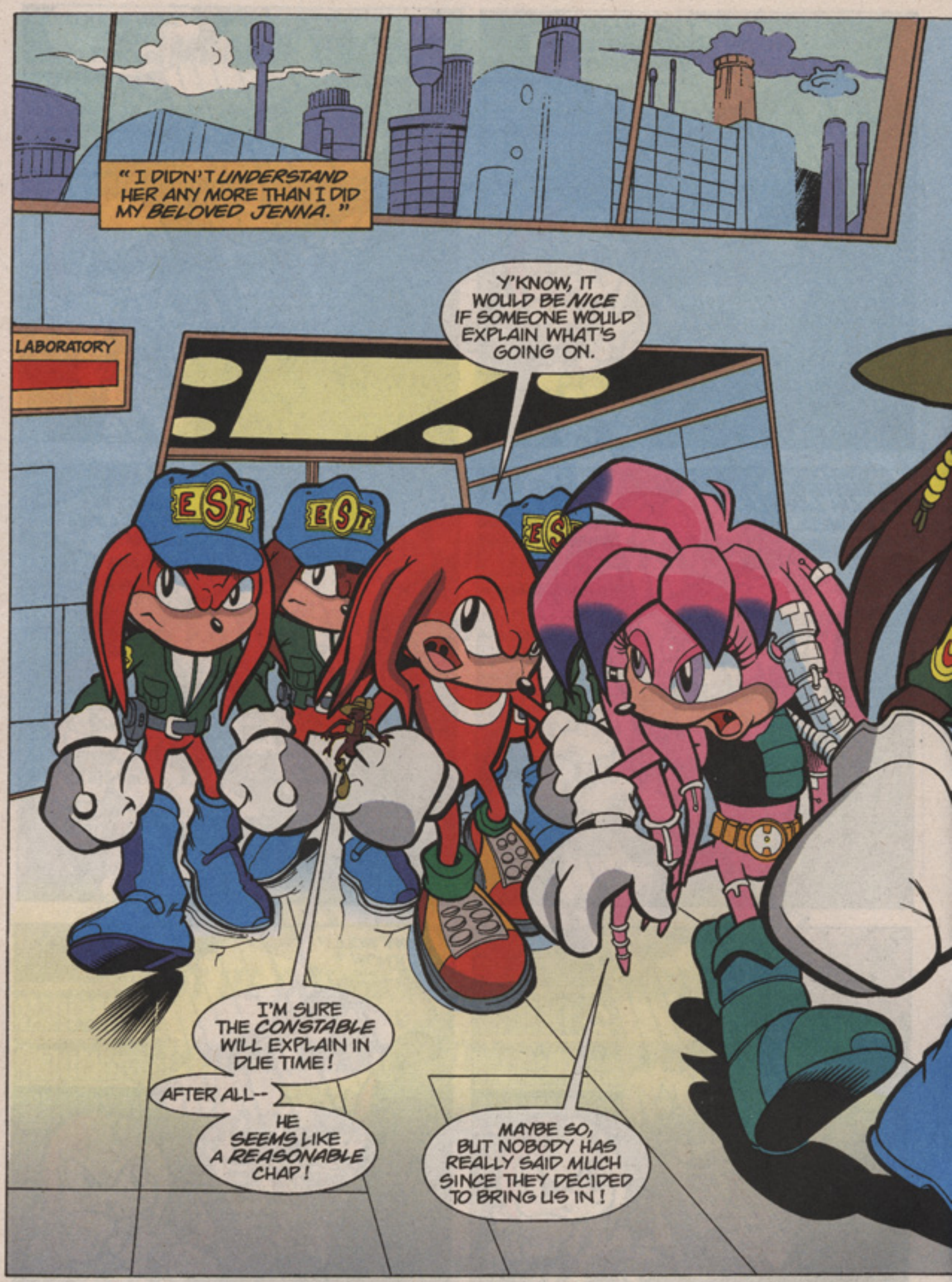
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**IMAGINE GROWING UP MOSTLY ALONE,
WITH THE BELIEF YOU ARE THE LAST OF YOUR KIND,
NEVER HAVING A FRIEND JUST LIKE YOU.
YOU MAY NOT LIKE IT. YOU MAY EVEN RESENT IT.
YOU DO, HOWEVER, LEARN TO DEAL WITH IT.**

**THIS HAS BEEN KNUCKLES' REALITY FOR MOST
OF HIS LIFE. NOW, UPON REDISCOVERING
THE LOST CITY OF ECHIDNAOPOLIS, IT BEGINS TO
DAWN ON HIM THAT LIFE AS HE KNEW IT WAS JUST
AN ILLUSION. WITH HIS TRAVELING COMPANIONS
ARCHIMEDES AND JULIE-SU SERVING AS CONSTANT
REMINDERS THAT THERE STILL REMAINS
A LOT HE DOESN'T KNOW OR UNDERSTAND,
KNUCKLES SEEKS OUT THE ANSWERS TO THE
QUESTIONS THAT CONTINUE TO HAUNT HIM.**

**WHAT HE FINDS WILL BE MORE
THAN HE BARGAINED FOR...**





"I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND
HER ANY MORE THAN I DID
MY BELOVED JENNA."

Y'KNOW, IT
WOULD BE NICE
IF SOMEONE WOULD
EXPLAIN WHAT'S
GOING ON.

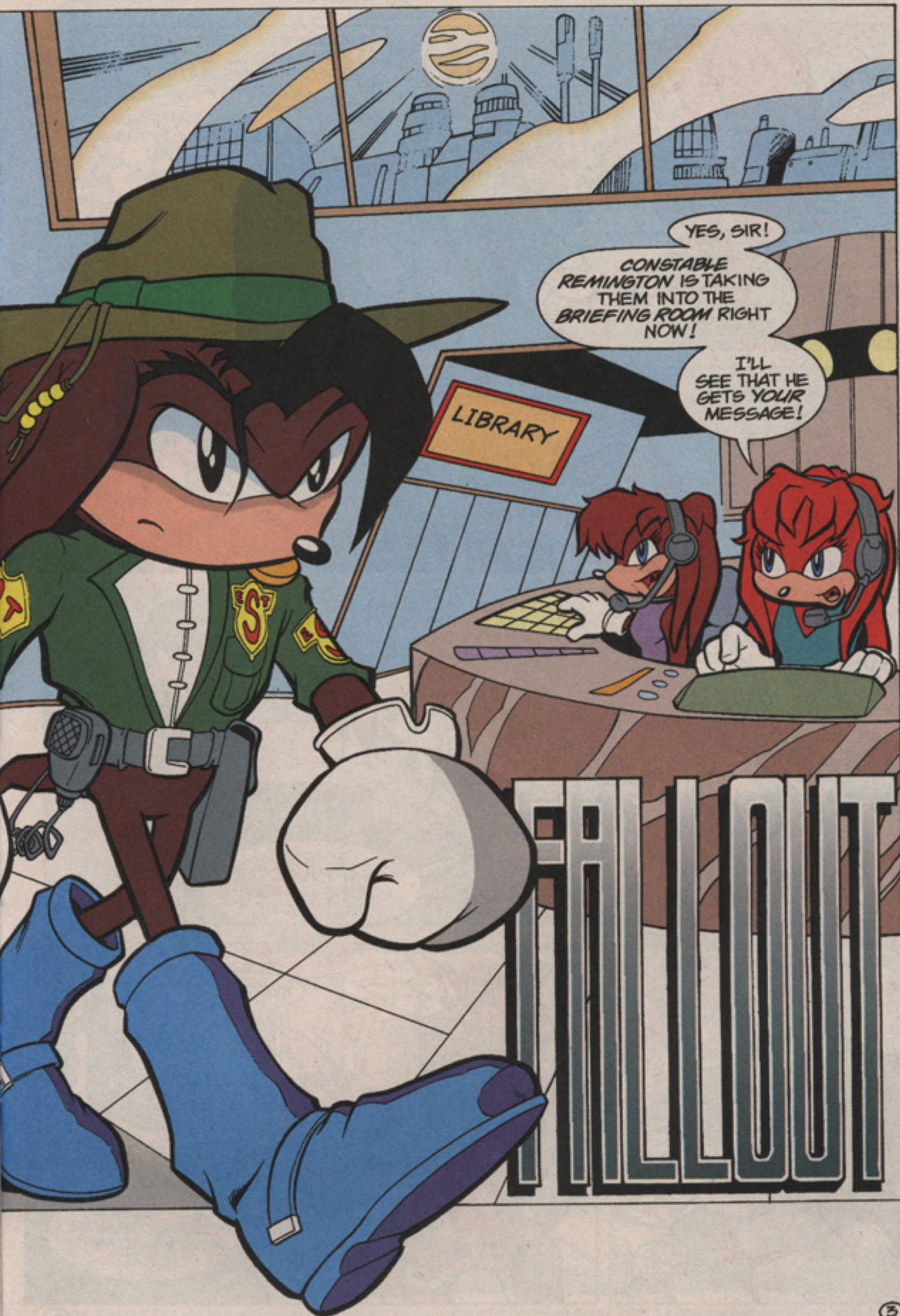
LABORATORY

I'M SURE
THE CONSTABLE
WILL EXPLAIN IN
DUE TIME!

AFTER ALL--

HE
SEEMS LIKE
A REASONABLE
CHAP!

MAYBE SO,
BUT NOBODY HAS
REALLY SAID MUCH
SINCE THEY DECIDED
TO BRING US IN!



YES, SIR!

CONSTABLE
REMINGTON IS TAKING
THEM INTO THE
BRIEFING ROOM RIGHT
NOW!

I'LL
SEE THAT HE
GETS YOUR
MESSAGE!

FALLOUT



I'M AWFULLY SORRY FOR NOT
RECOGNIZING YOUR
STATION IMMEDIATELY,
GUARDIAN--

--BUT THESE HAVE
BEEN UNSETTLING
TIMES!
EVERYONE'S
ON EDGE!



YOU CAN
SAY THAT
AGAIN!

BY THE WAY, THE
NAME'S KNUCKLES!



TO ADDRESS ONE'S SUPERIOR IN SO
PERSONAL A MANNER WOULD BE MOST
DISRESPECTFUL, GUARDIAN!

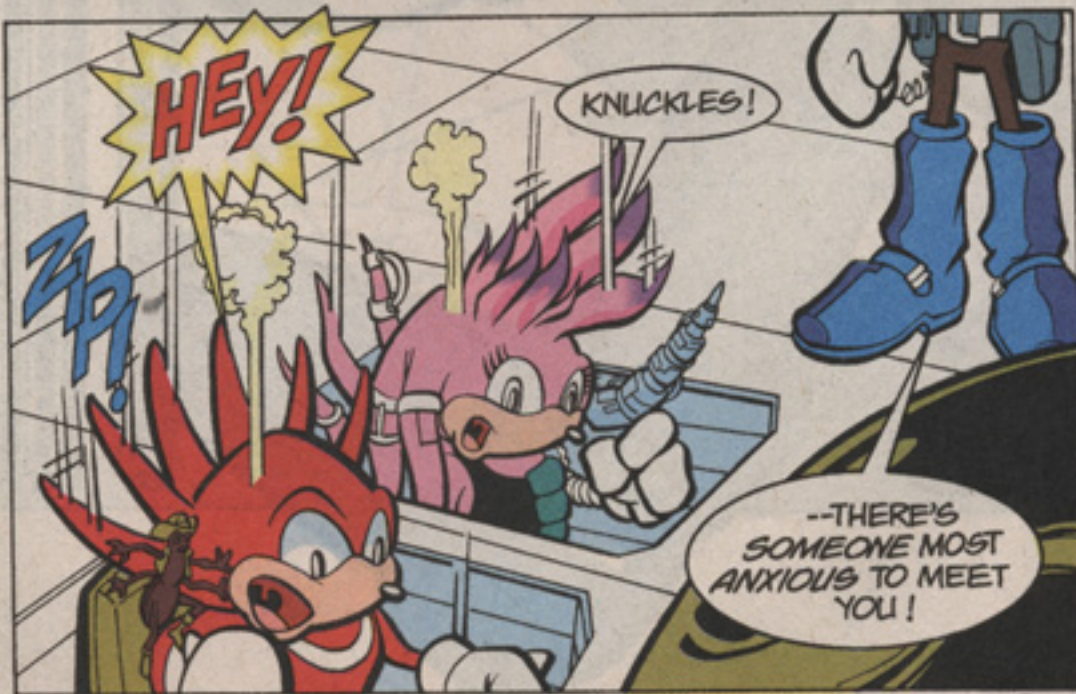
I'M JUST
AN ORDINARY JOE
DOING HIS JOB,
THAT'S ALL!



BEGGING YOUR PARDON,
GUARDIAN--

--BUT YOU ARE FAR
FROM ORDINARY!

IN FACT--



HEY!

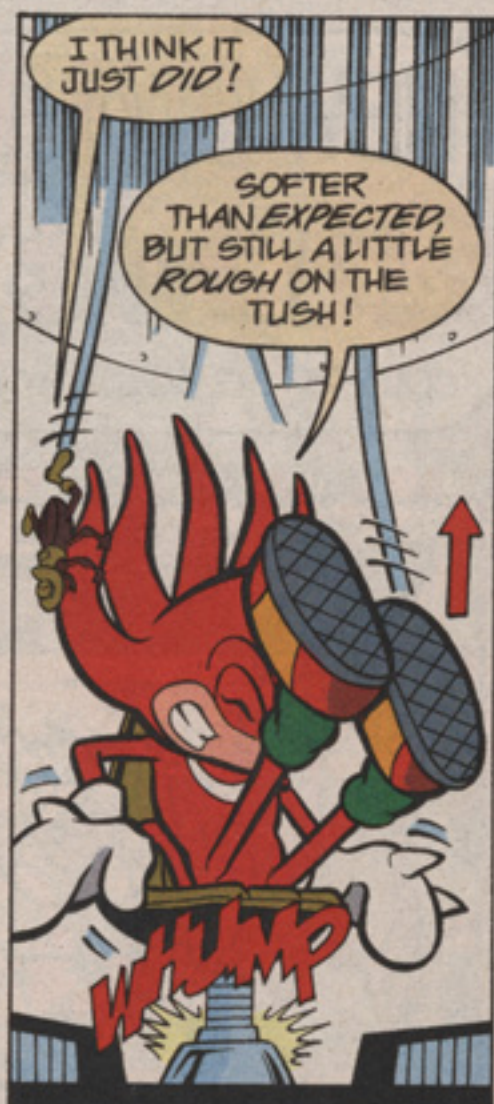
KNUCKLES!

--THERE'S
SOMEONE MOST
ANXIOUS TO MEET
YOU!



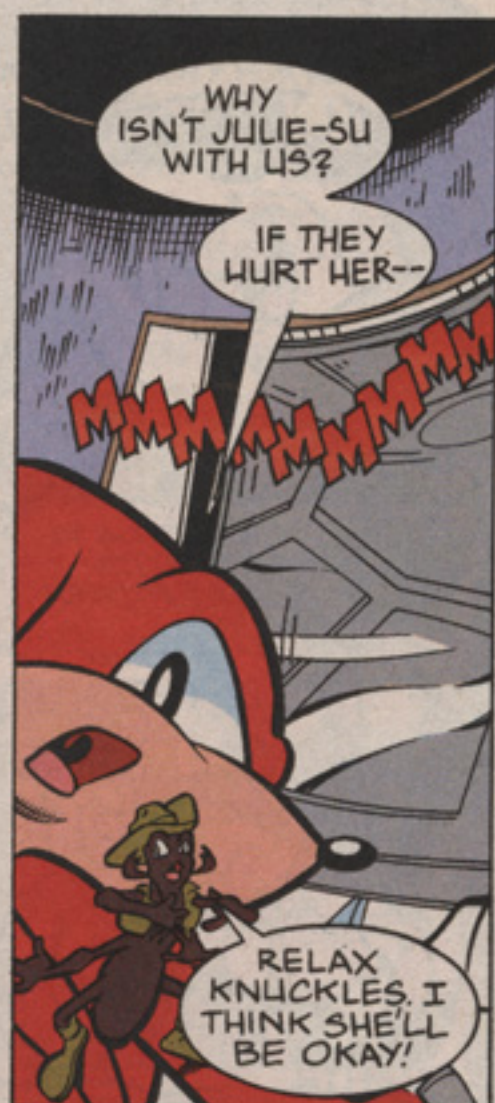
ARCHY!

HOW DO YOU
STOP THIS CRAZY
THING ?!!



I THINK IT
JUST DID!

SOFTER
THAN EXPECTED,
BUT STILL A LITTLE
ROUGH ON THE
TUSH!

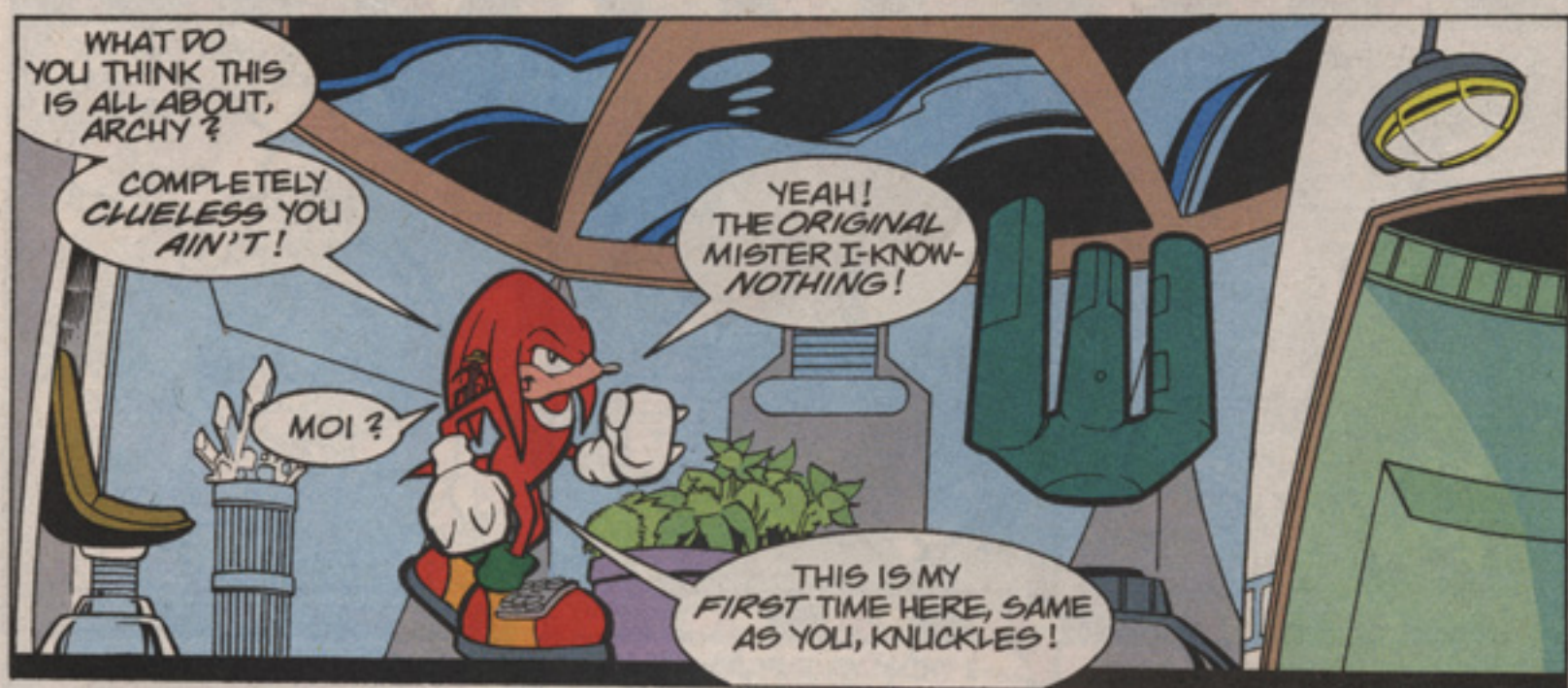


WHY
ISN'T JULIE-SU
WITH US?

IF THEY
HURT HER--

MMM MMMMMM

RELAX
KNUCKLES. I
THINK SHE'LL
BE OKAY!



WHAT DO
YOU THINK THIS
IS ALL ABOUT,
ARCHY?

COMPLETELY
CLUELESS YOU
AIN'T!

MOI ?

YEAH!
THE ORIGINAL
MISTER I-KNOW-
NOTHING!

THIS IS MY
FIRST TIME HERE, SAME
AS YOU, KNUCKLES!



HOW ABOUT
AT LEAST A HINT
IF WE'RE DEALING
WITH FRIEND OR
FOE ?

HARDLY
A FOE...

"... AND DEFINITELY
MORE
THAN A FRIEND!"

KHA-KHOOOM!!!

AAAAAH!

I'LL BE--!

DINGOES! ALL
AROUND US!

SIR!
ECHIDNAS!
ALL AROUND
US!

WHAT'S
GOING ON,
SIR?

THAT'S A
GOOD QUESTION,
SERGEANT!

I WISH I HAD
ANSWERS!

I BETTER REPORT
THIS TO GENERAL
STRYKER!

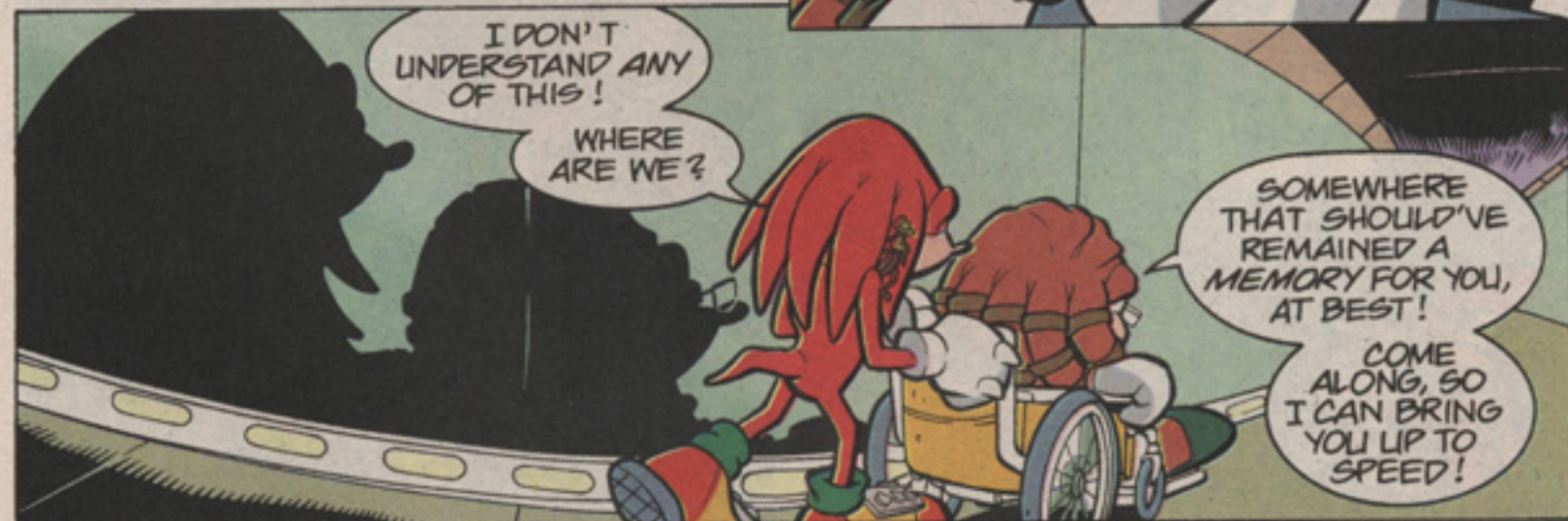
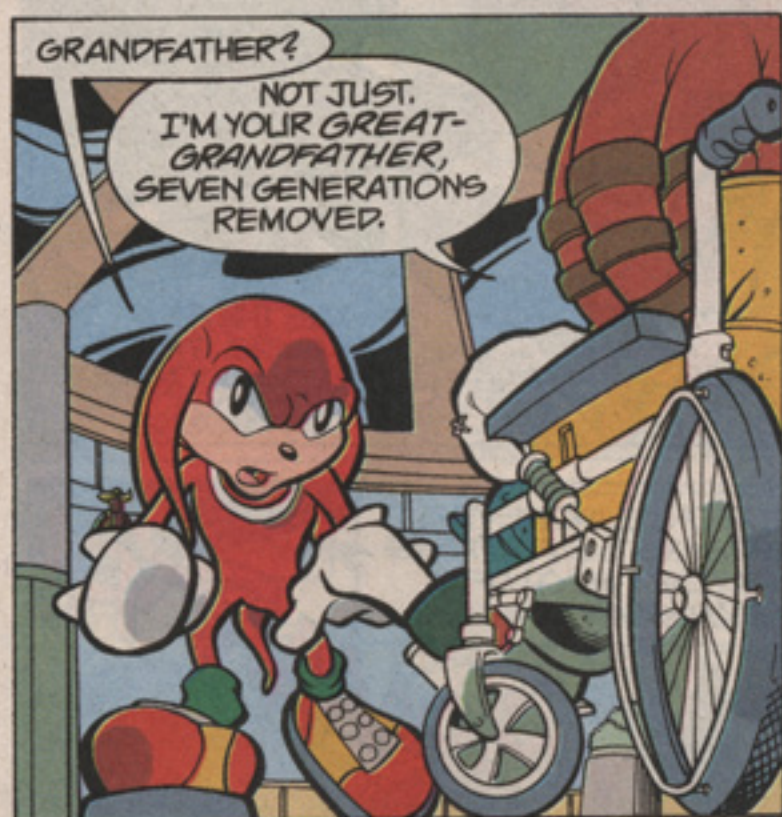
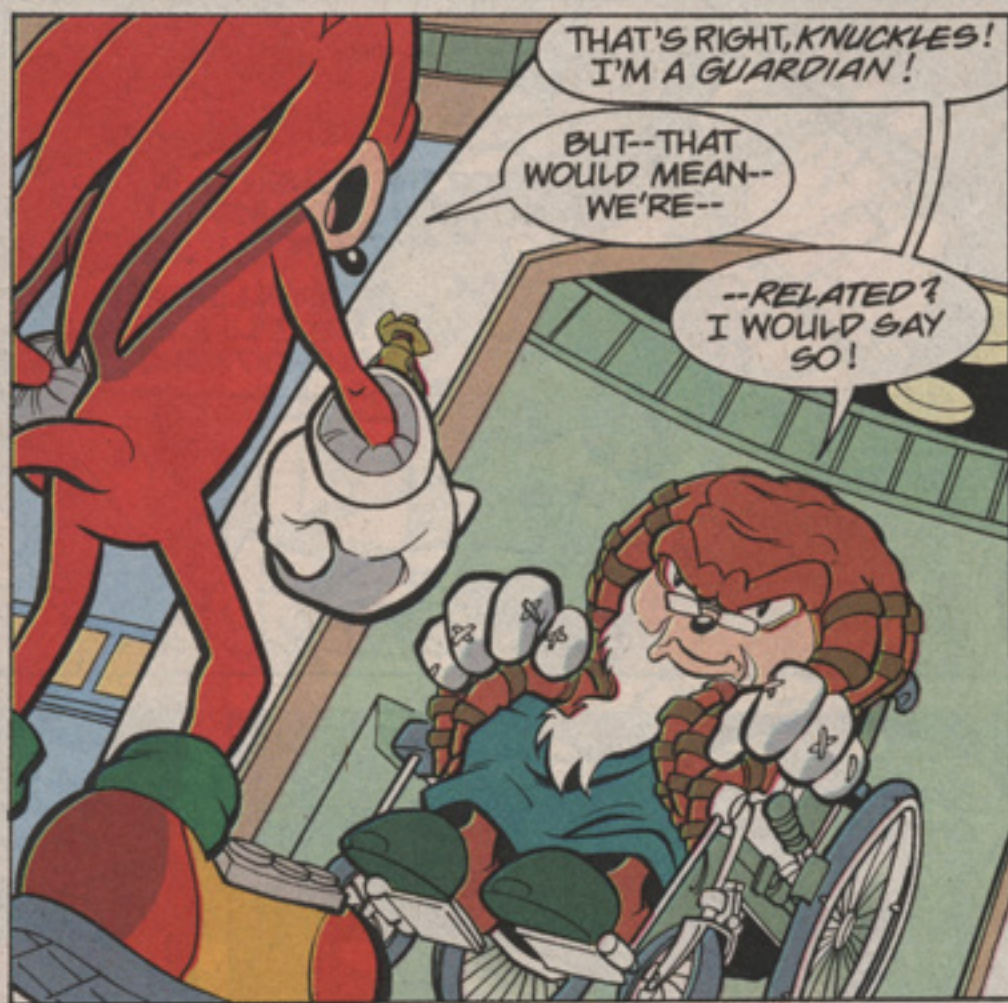
WHERE
ECHIDNAS ARE
INVOLVED, IT'S
ALWAYS A
MATTER OF TOP
PRIORITY!

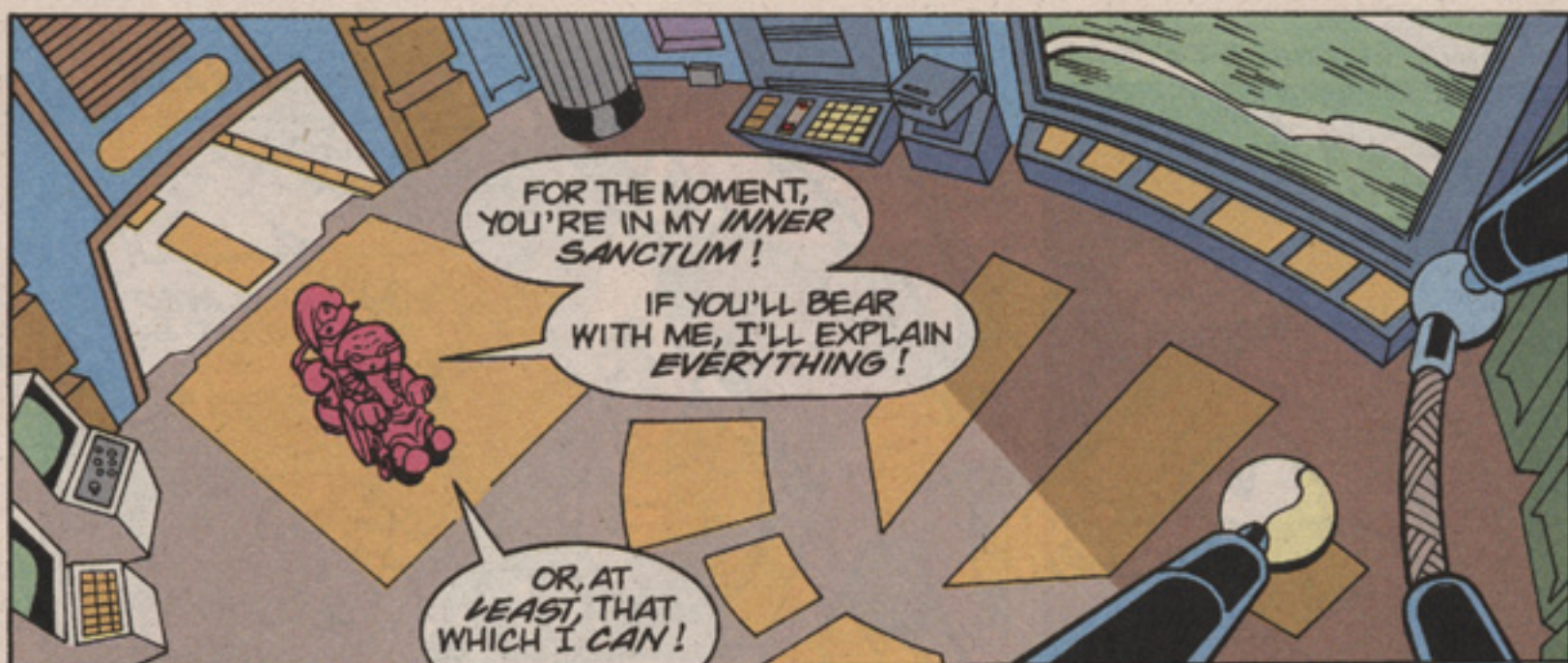
FORGIVE ME, GENERAL,
FOR DISTURBING YOU,
BUT I THOUGHT--

**KNOCK!
KNOCK!**

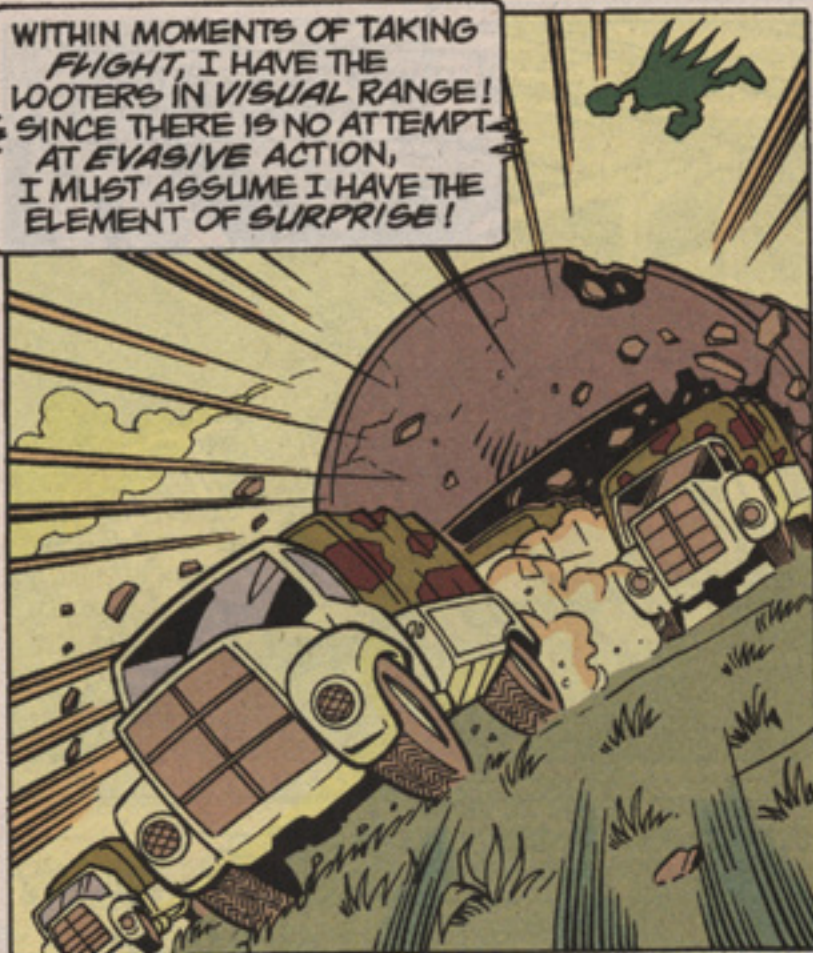
I ALREADY
KNOW!



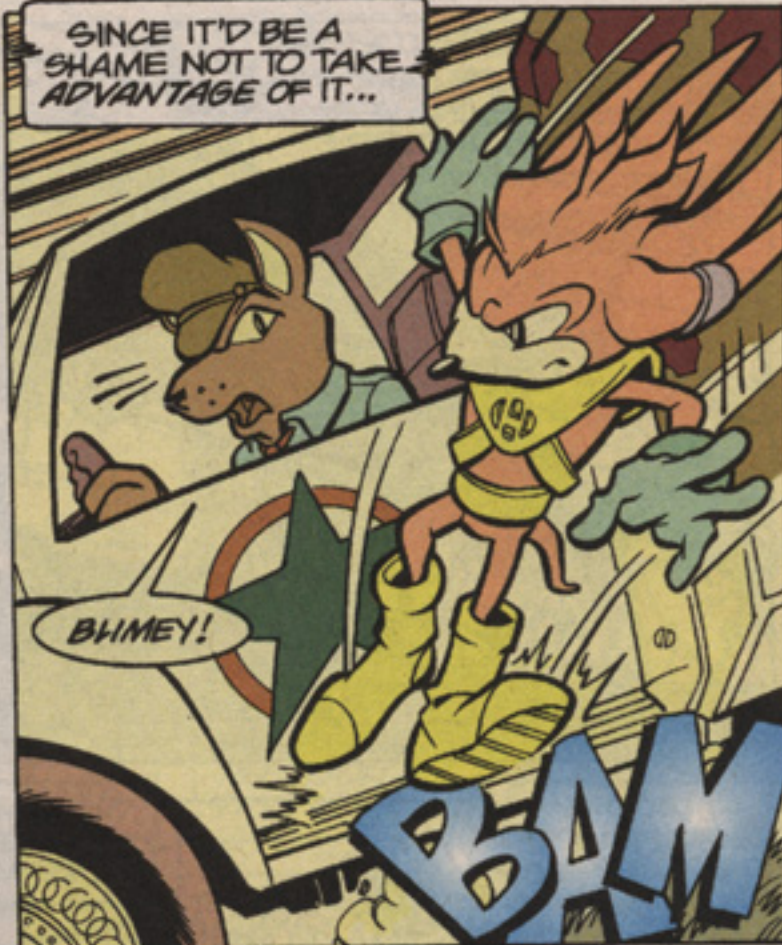




WITHIN MOMENTS OF TAKING FLIGHT, I HAVE THE LOOTERS IN VISUAL RANGE! SINCE THERE IS NO ATTEMPT AT EVASIVE ACTION, I MUST ASSUME I HAVE THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE!



SINCE IT'D BE A SHAME NOT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT...

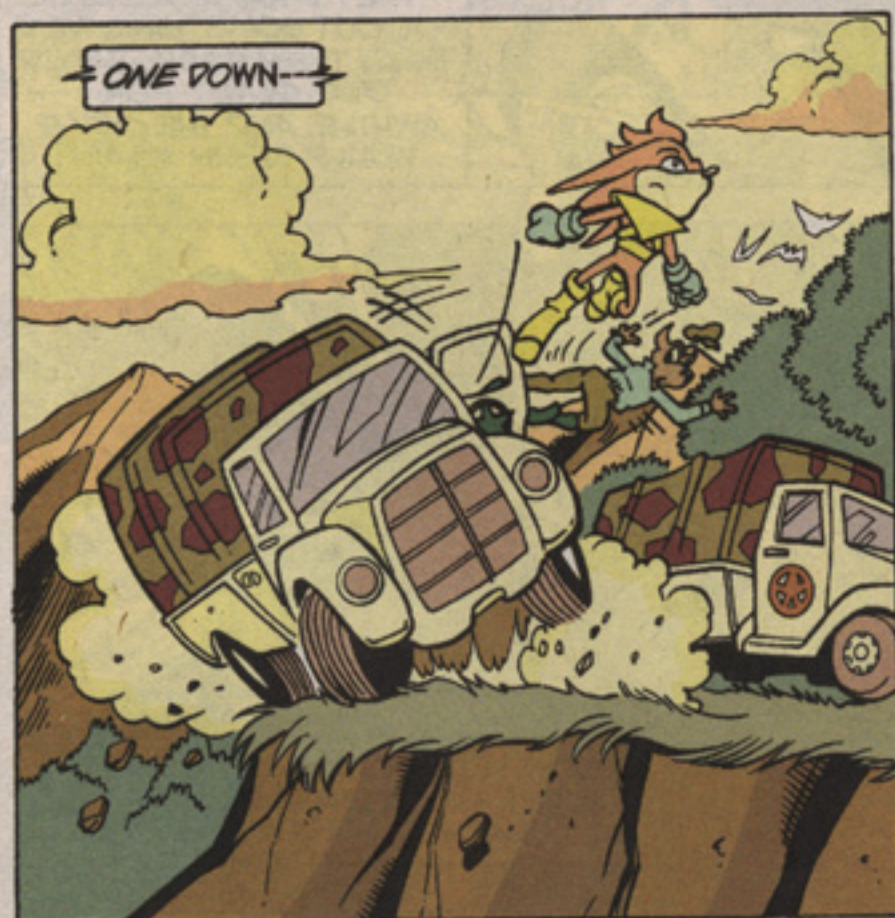


BHIMEY!

I JUST HATE BACKSEAT DRIVERS, DON'T YOU?

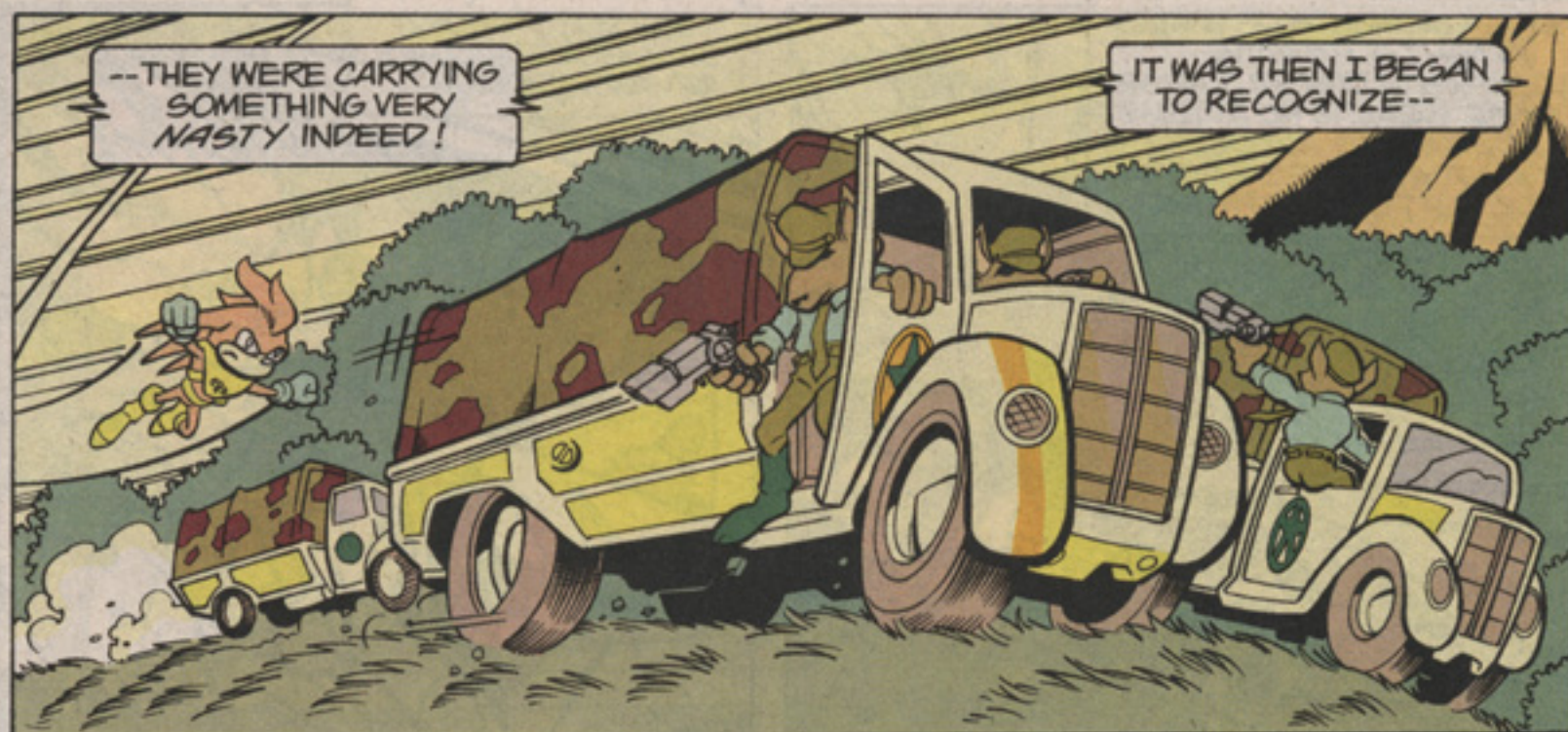


ONE DOWN--



AND MORE TO GO!





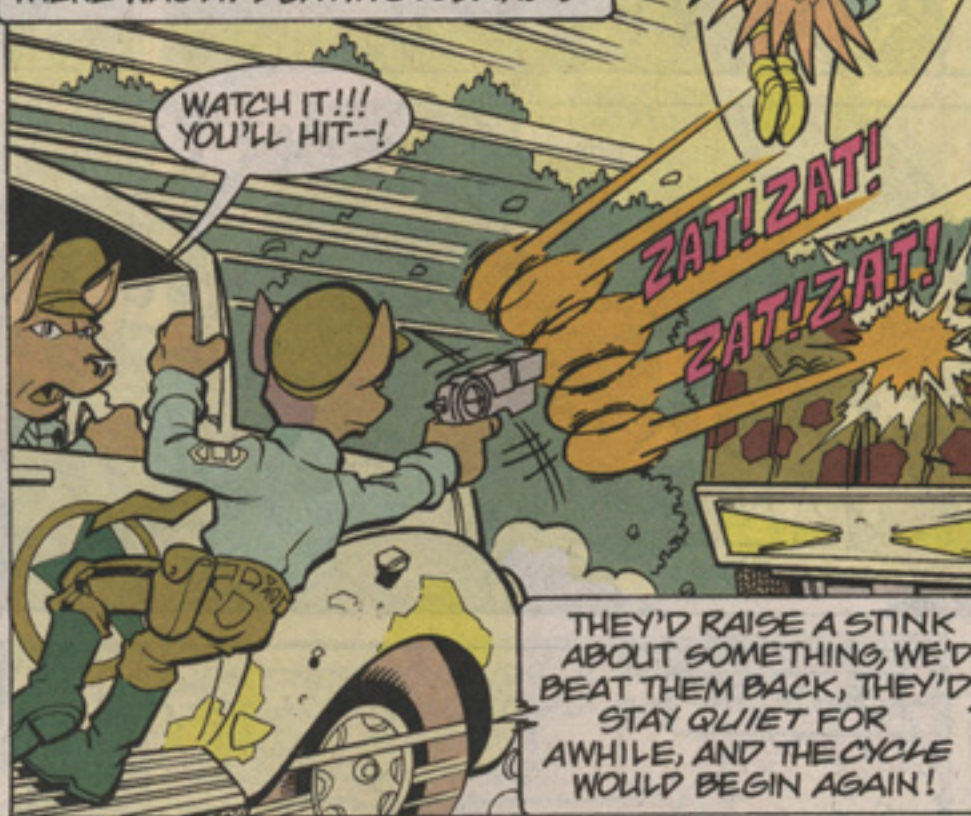
--THEY WERE CARRYING
SOMETHING VERY
NASTY INDEED!

IT WAS THEN I BEGAN
TO RECOGNIZE--



--THAT THE
DINGOES WERE
PREPARED TO GO
TO ANY LENGTHS
TO ACHIEVE THEIR
OBJECTIVES!

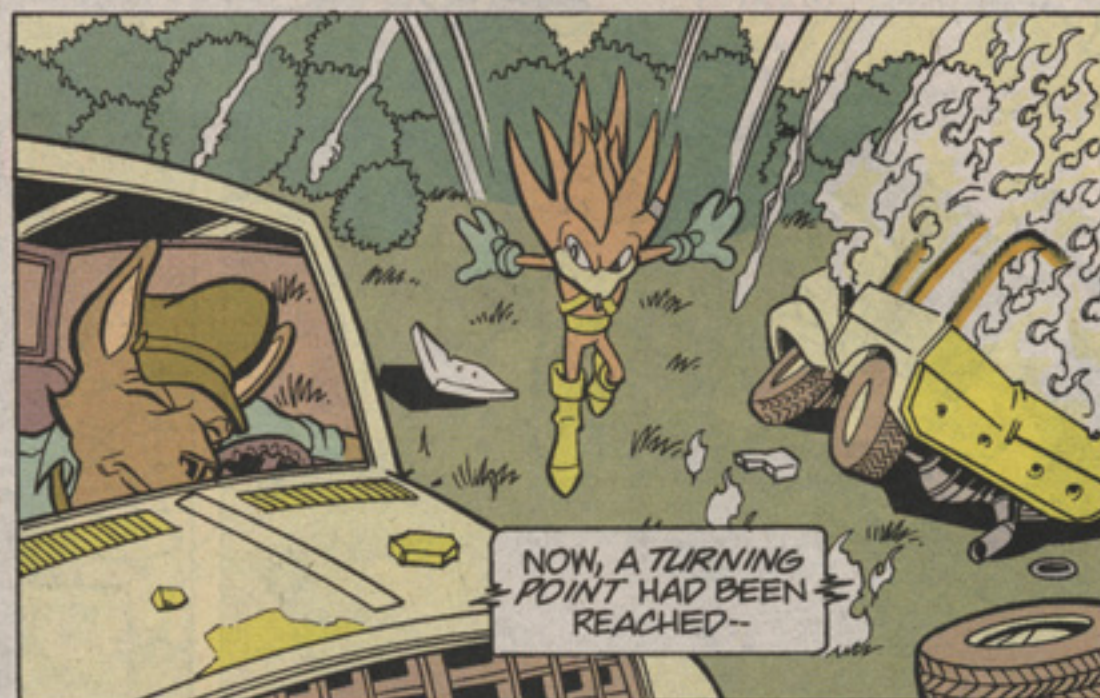
THE DINGOES HAD BEEN AT WAR
WITH THE ECHIDNAS EVEN BEFORE
THERE WAS A FLOATING ISLAND!



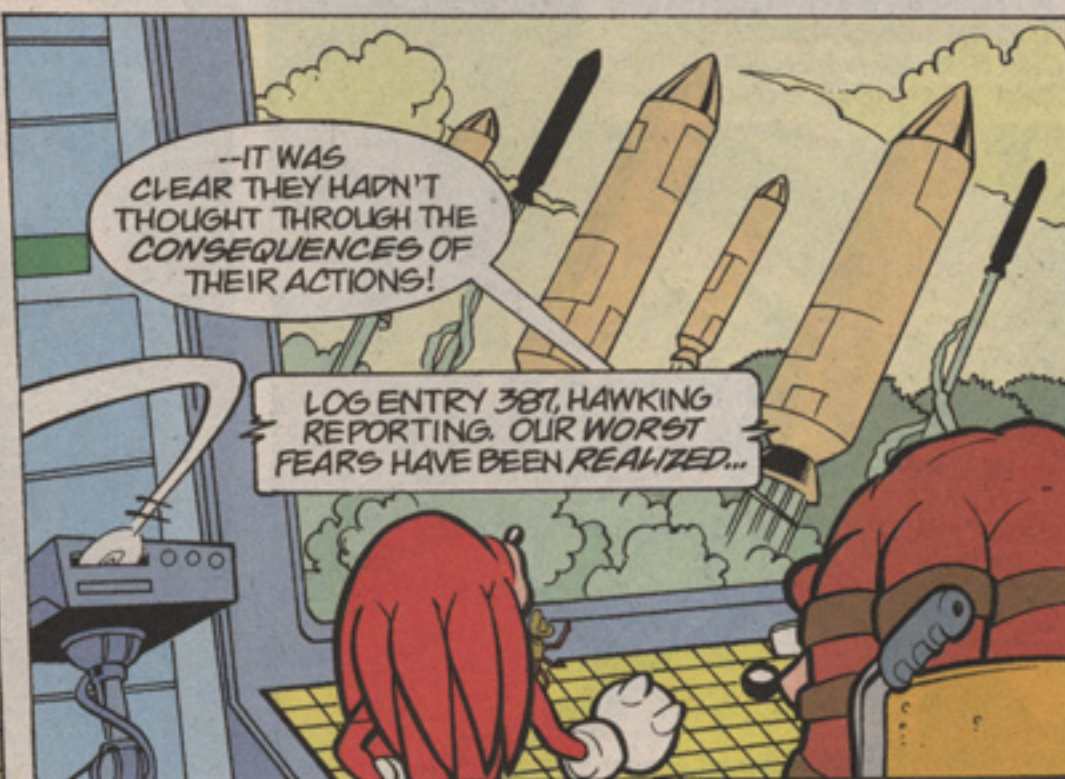
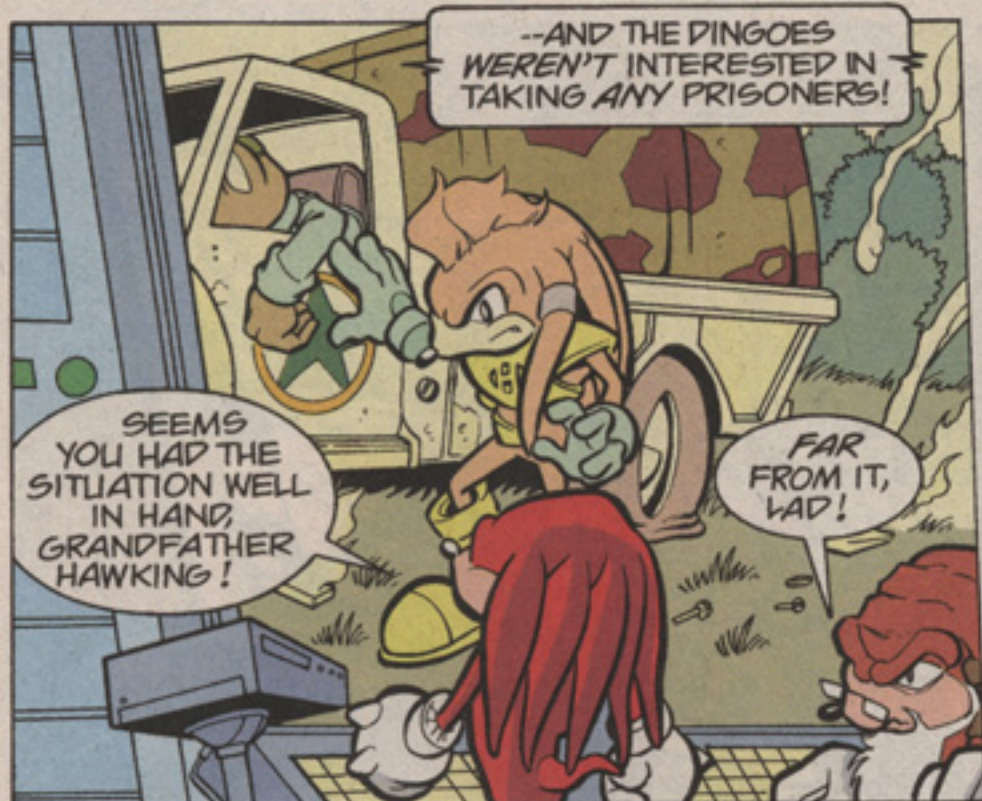
WATCH IT!!!
YOU'LL HIT--!

ZAT!ZAT!
ZAT!ZAT!

THEY'D RAISE A STINK
ABOUT SOMETHING, WE'D
BEAT THEM BACK, THEY'D
STAY QUIET FOR
AWHILE, AND THE CYCLE
WOULD BEGIN AGAIN!



NOW, A TURNING
POINT HAD BEEN
REACHED--



WE HAVE DETERMINED
THAT UNLESS WE USE
THE SAME TECHNOLOGY
BEING USED AGAINST
US TO DEFEND
OURSELVES, WE ARE
DOOMED!



WHO IS
THAT WITH YOU,
GRANDFATHER?

THAT'S NOT
IMPORTANT!

HE'S
ANOTHER
GUARDIAN,
AIN'T HE?



Shhh!
JUST PAY
ATTENTION,
KNUCKLES!



WITHOUT A MOMENT TO
SPARE, I RETURNED TO
A SITE THAT HAD BEEN
SEALED SINCE THE
TIME OF EDMUND! *

*THE FIRST GUARDIAN
OF THE FLOATING
ISLAND--
HISTORIAN JUSTIN

WITHIN THE CONTENTS OF
THOSE LONG ABANDONED
CRATES WAS PERHAPS THE
ONLY POSSIBLE SOLUTION--



SEEMS
TO ME
EVERYBODY
KNOWS
EVERYTHING--

--AND BY MAKING THE
DECISION TO UTILIZE
THAT SOLUTION--



--EXCEPT
ME!

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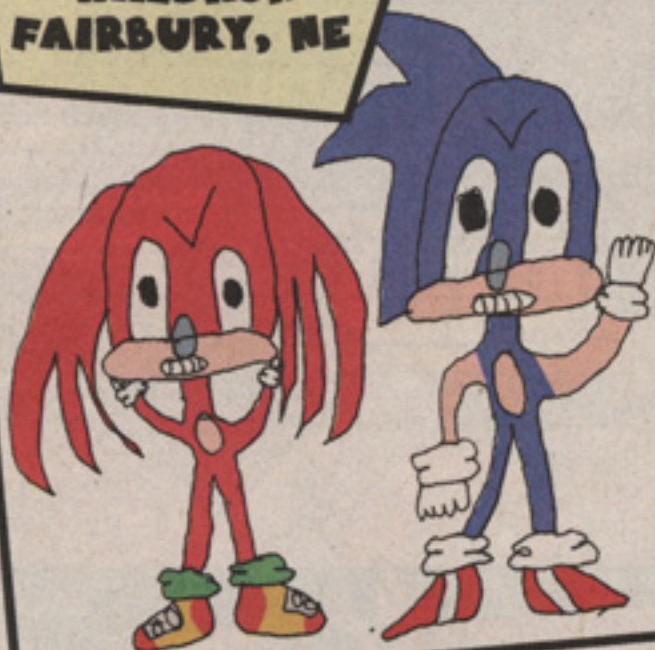
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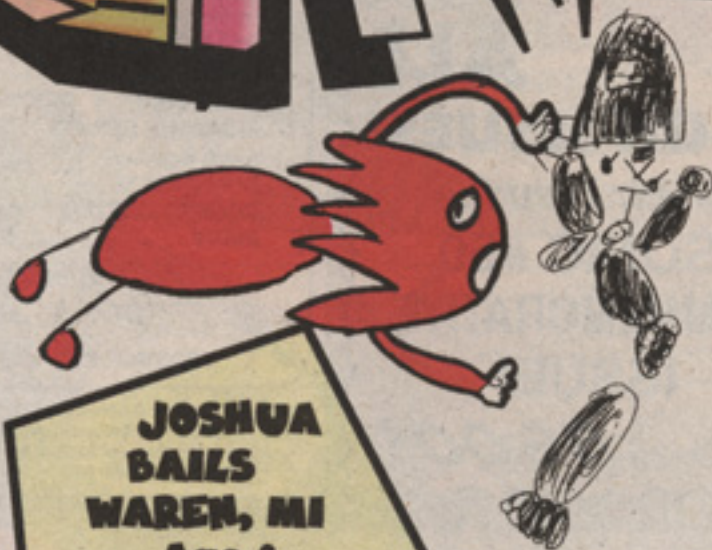
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KNUCKLES

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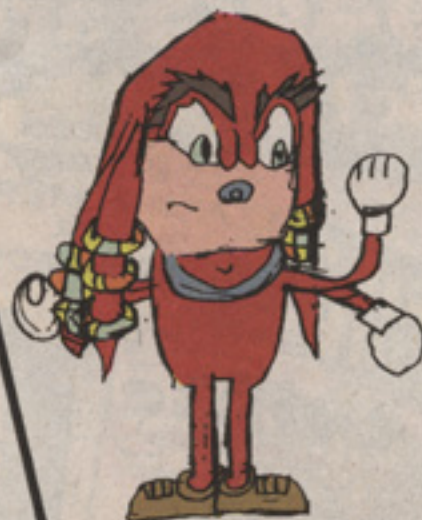


**JOSHUA
BAILS
WAREN, MI
Age 8**

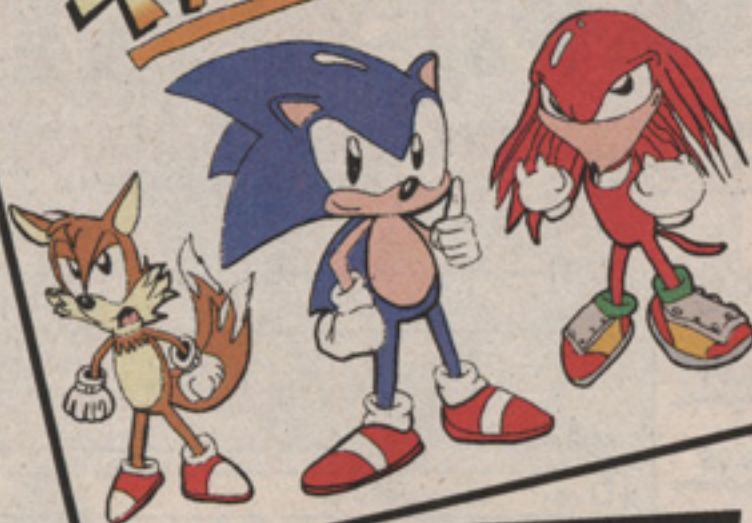


STEPPENWOLF 🏆

**BRANDON BLEVINS
ROANOKE, VA
Age 9**



MESS WITH US AND YOUR ASKING FOR
TRIPLE TROUBLE!



**BRIAN
MEYER
ODENTON,
MD**

Brian Meyer

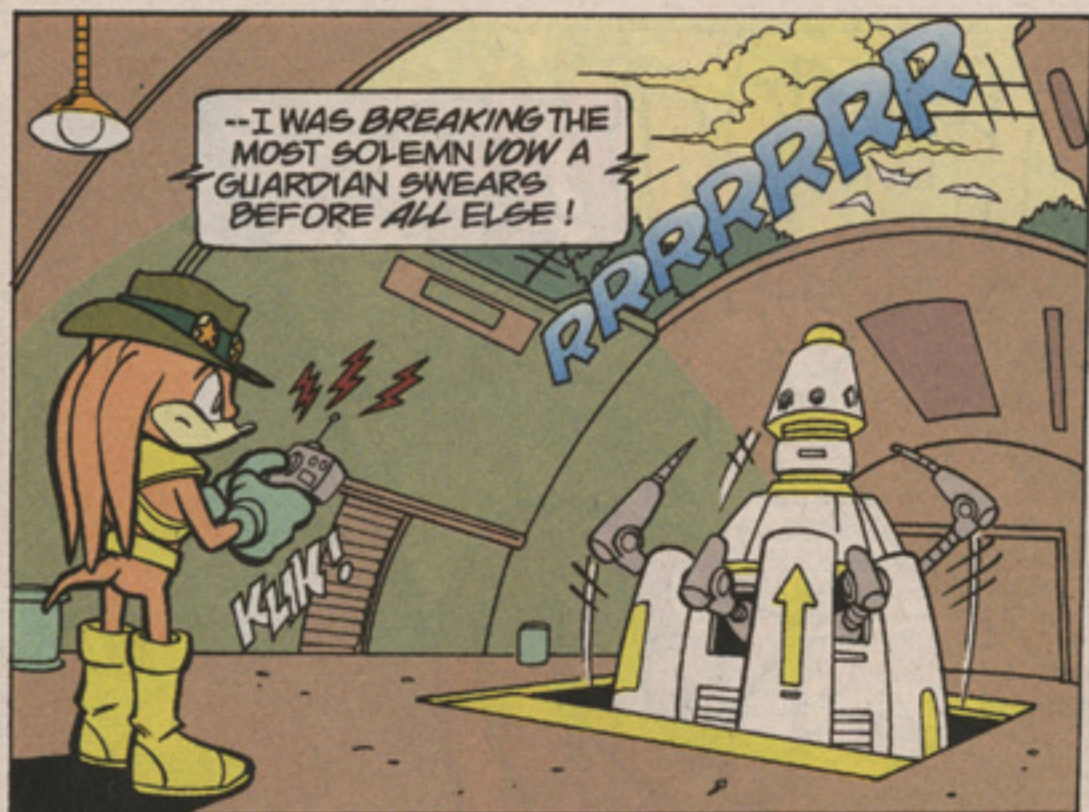
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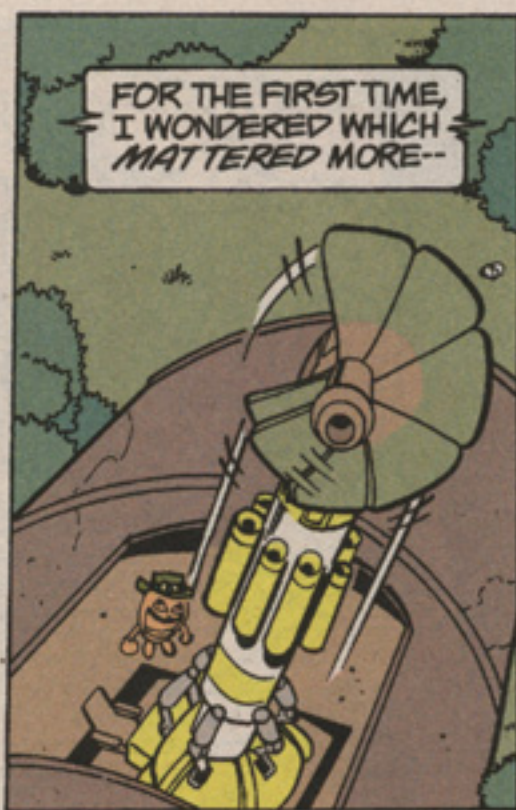


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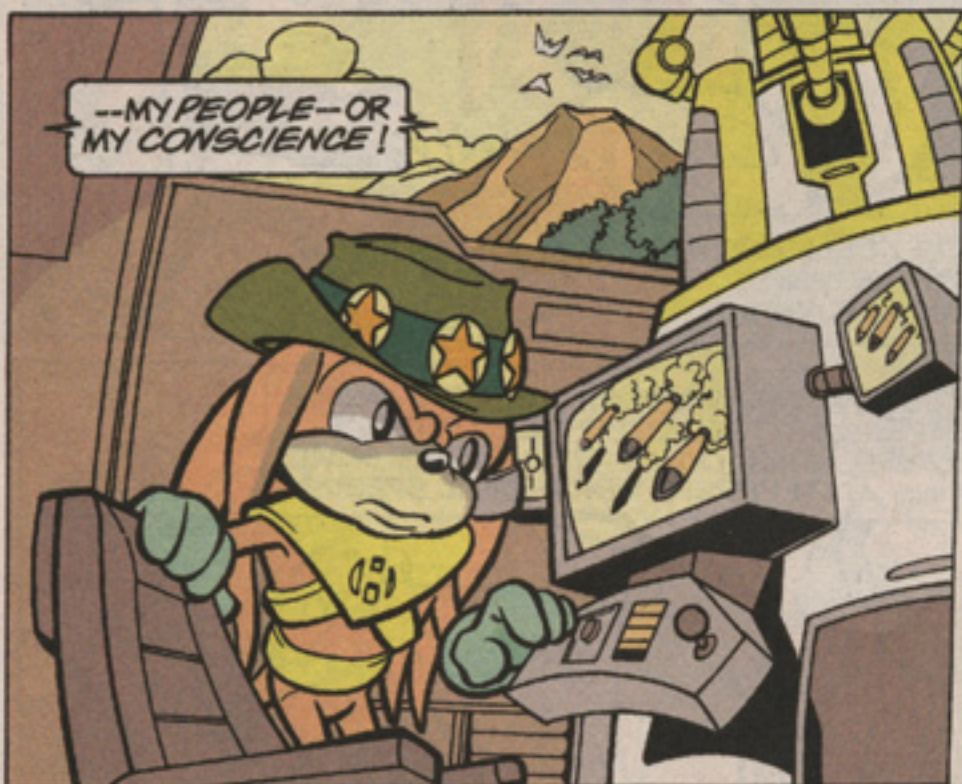
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--I WAS BREAKING THE MOST SOLEMN VOW A GUARDIAN SWEARS BEFORE ALL ELSE!



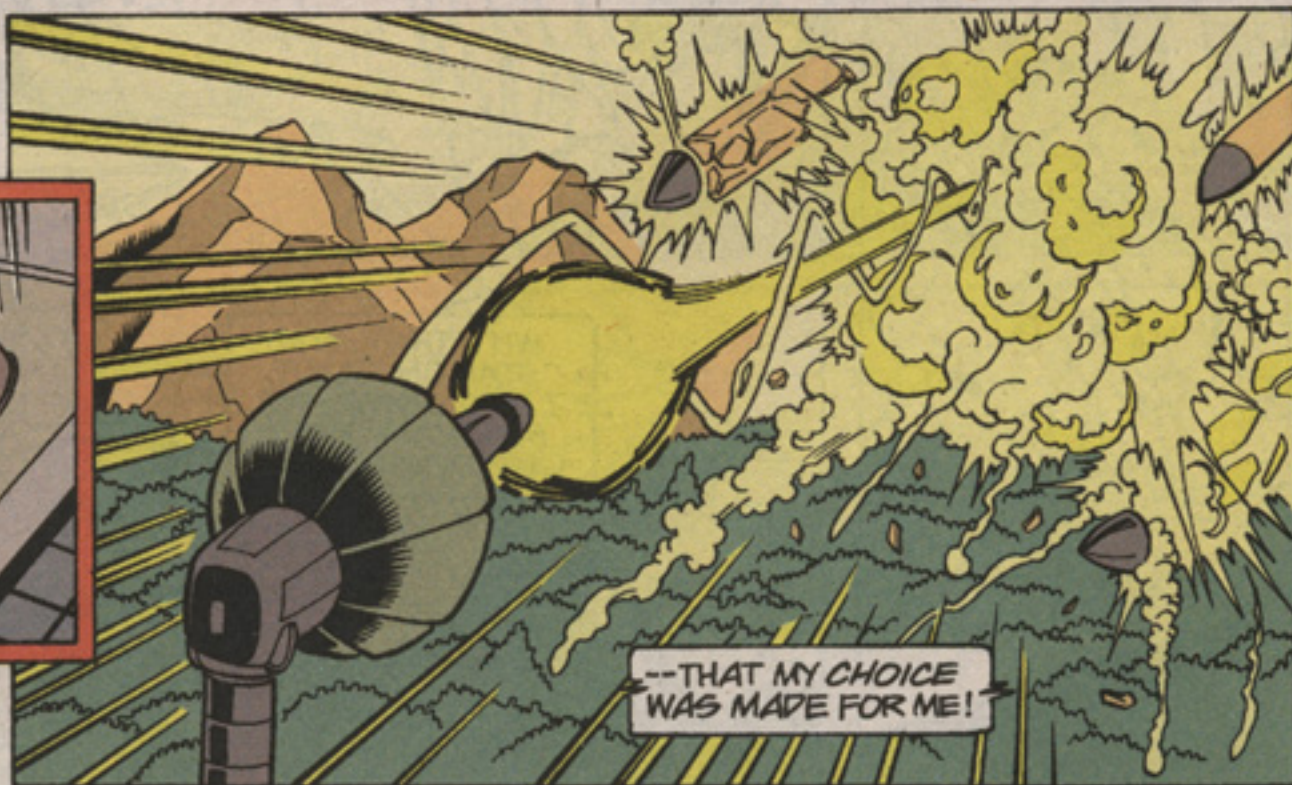
FOR THE FIRST TIME, I WONDERED WHICH MATTERED MORE--



--MY PEOPLE--OR MY CONSCIENCE!

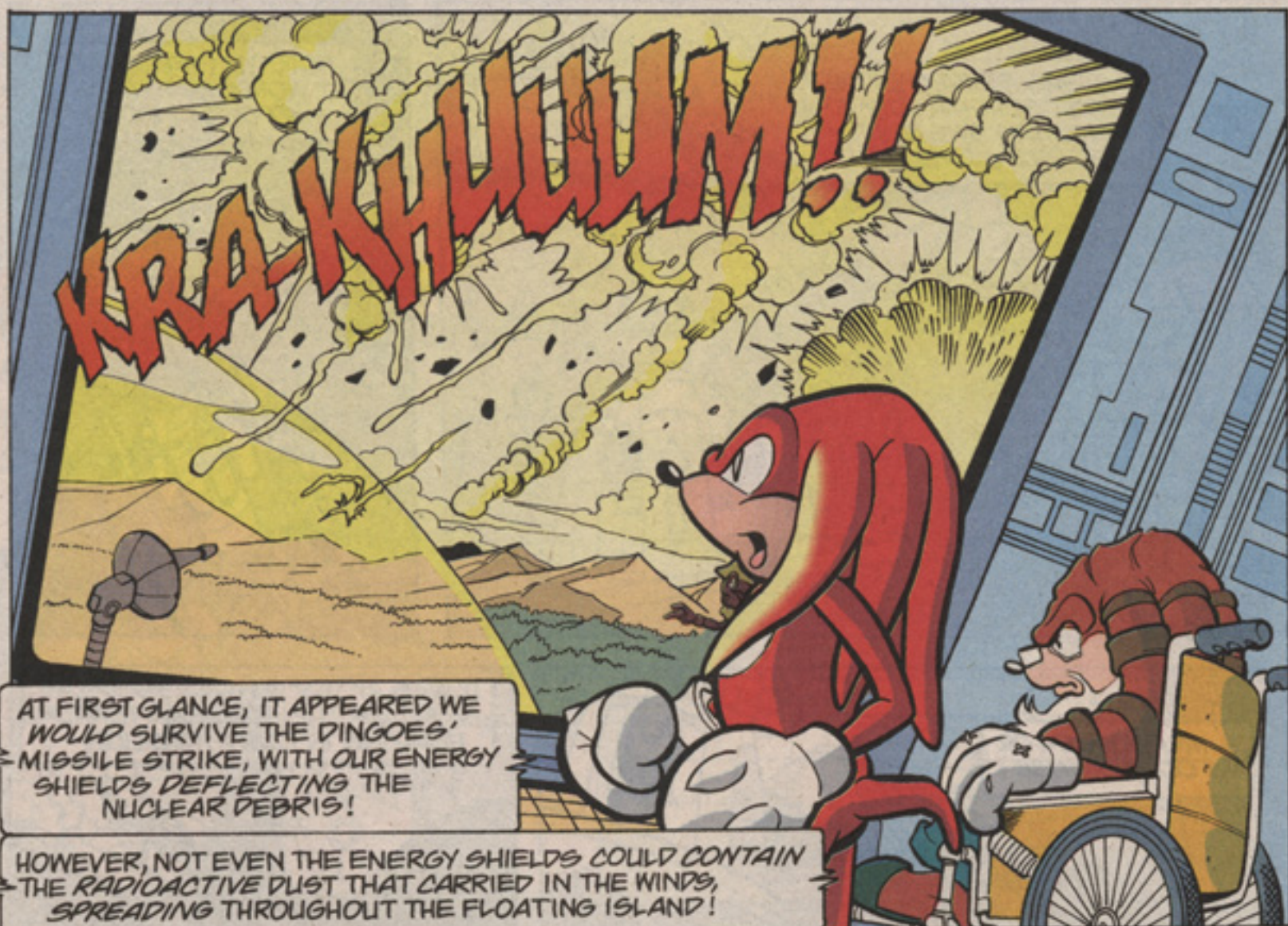


IT WAS AFTER I WITNESSED THE SIGHT OF THE NUCLEAR TERROR HEADING IN OUR DIRECTION--



--THAT MY CHOICE WAS MADE FOR ME!





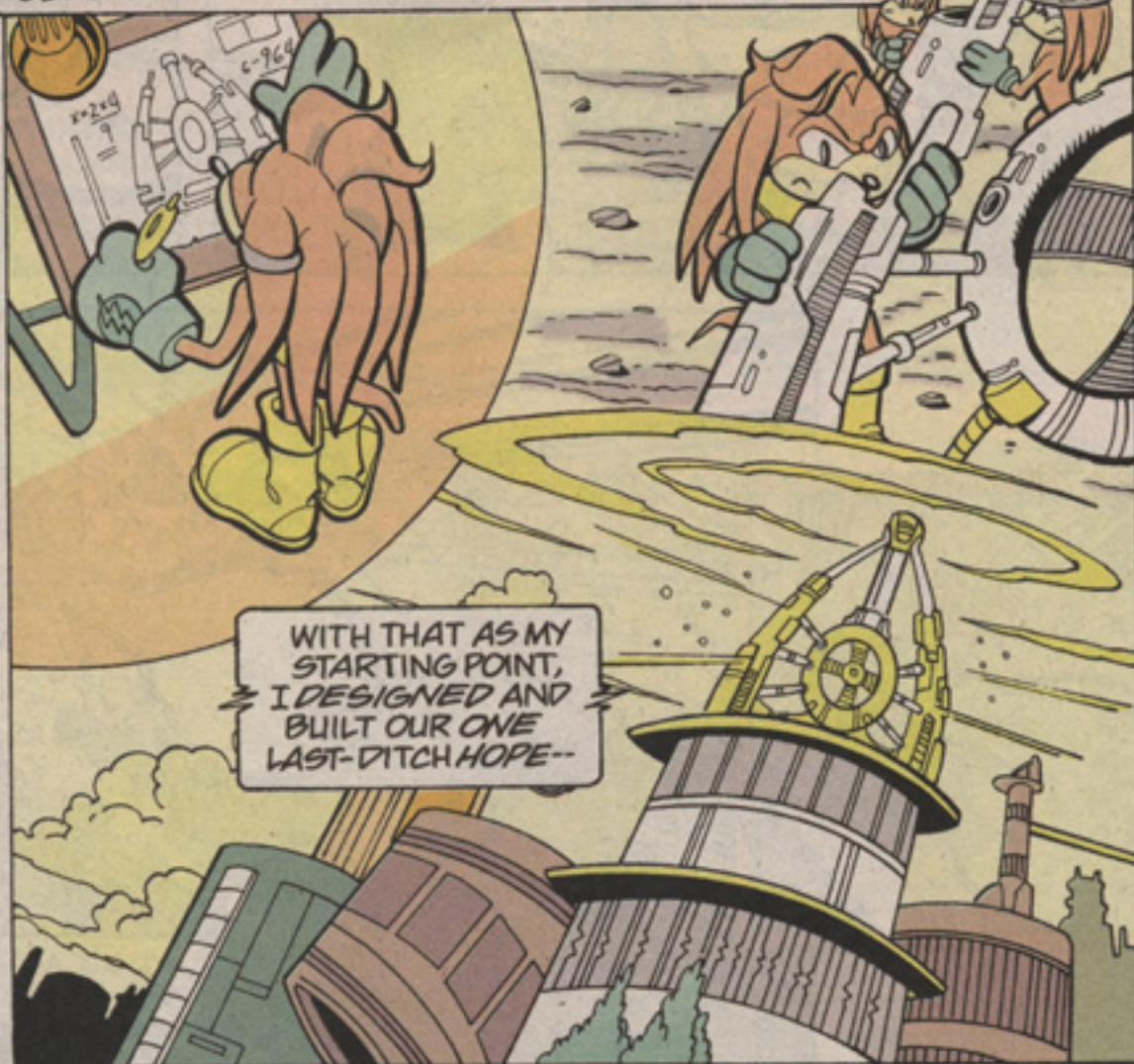
AT FIRST GLANCE, IT APPEARED WE WOULD SURVIVE THE DINGOES' MISSILE STRIKE, WITH OUR ENERGY SHIELDS DEFLECTING THE NUCLEAR DEBRIS!

HOWEVER, NOT EVEN THE ENERGY SHIELDS COULD CONTAIN THE RADIOACTIVE DUST THAT CARRIED IN THE WINDS, SPREADING THROUGHOUT THE FLOATING ISLAND!



SINCE THE ENTIRE ISLAND STOOD TO BE AFFECTED, EVACUATION WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION.

HOWEVER, I DISCOVERED A POSSIBLE OPTION AMONG DIMITRI'S PAPERS. HE THEORIZED THE EXISTENCE OF OTHER ZONES, WHICH OCCUPIED THE SAME SPACE, BUT OPERATING AT DIFFERENT VIBRATIONAL SPEEDS.

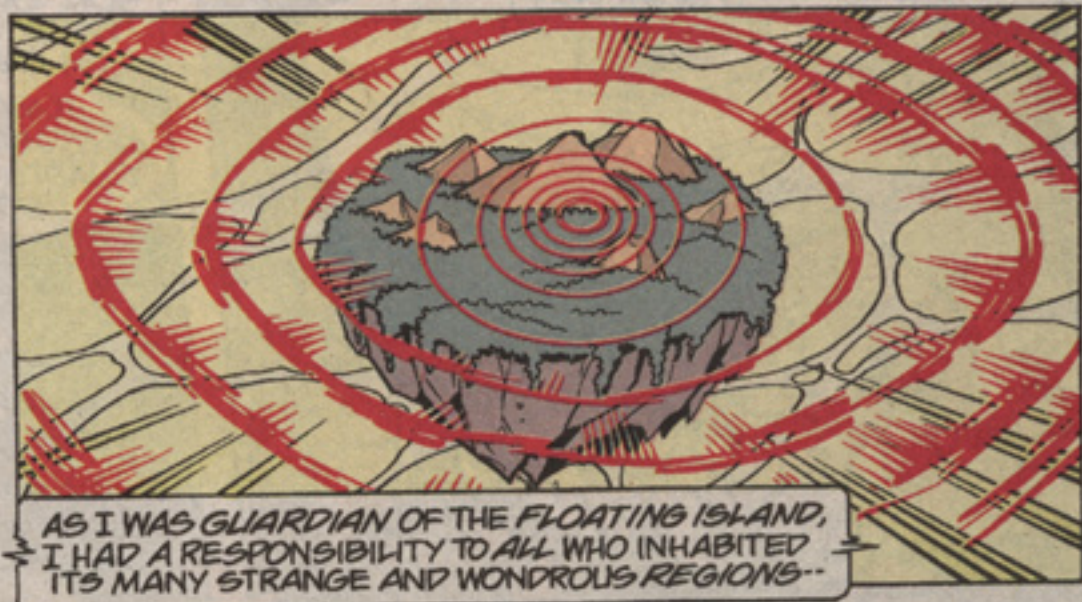


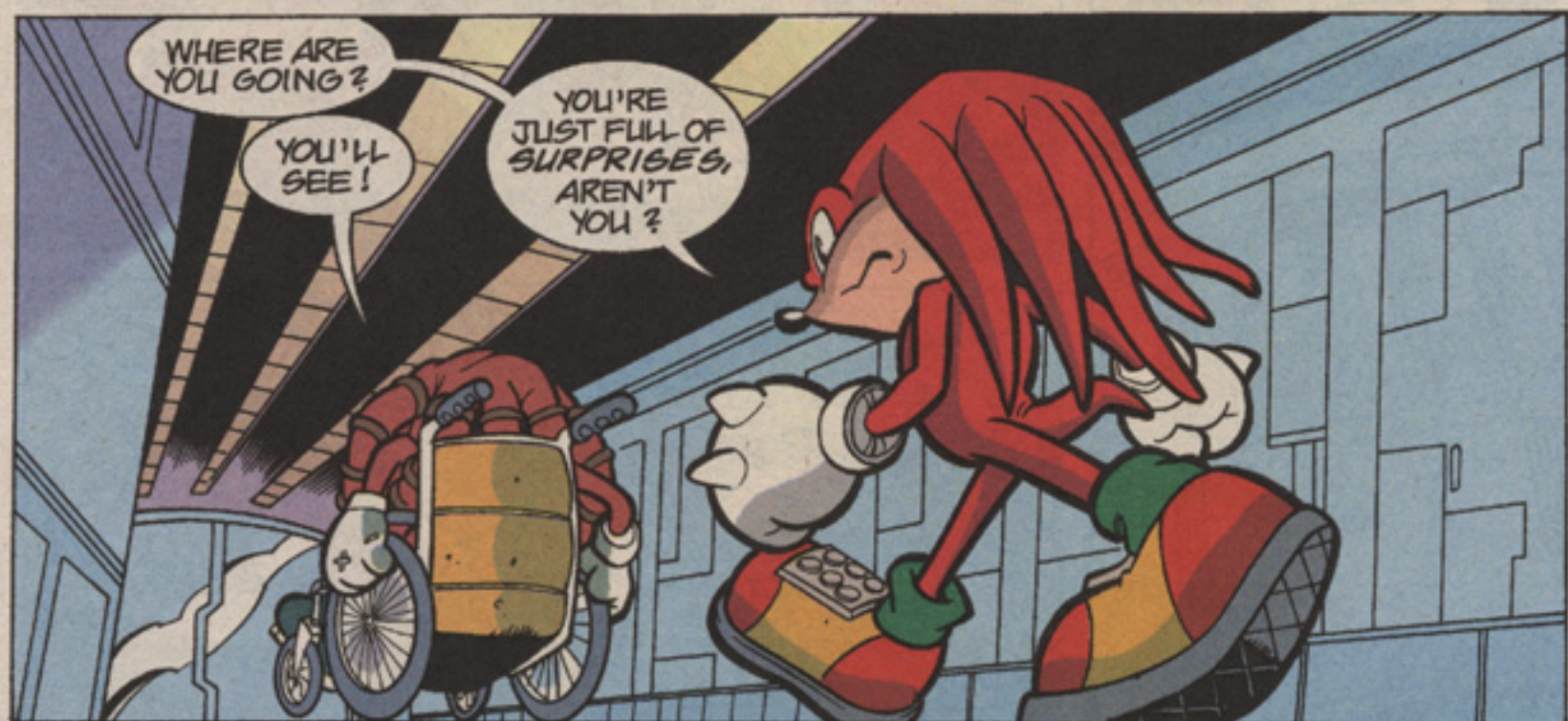
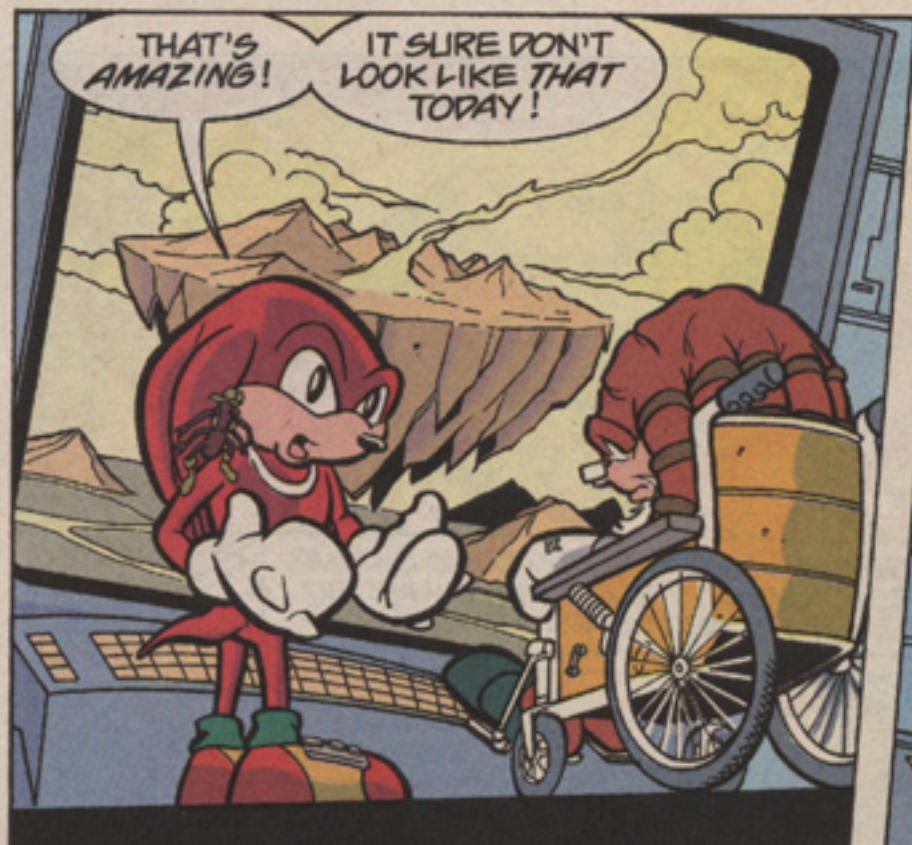
WITH THAT AS MY STARTING POINT, I DESIGNED AND BUILT OUR ONE LAST-DITCH HOPE--

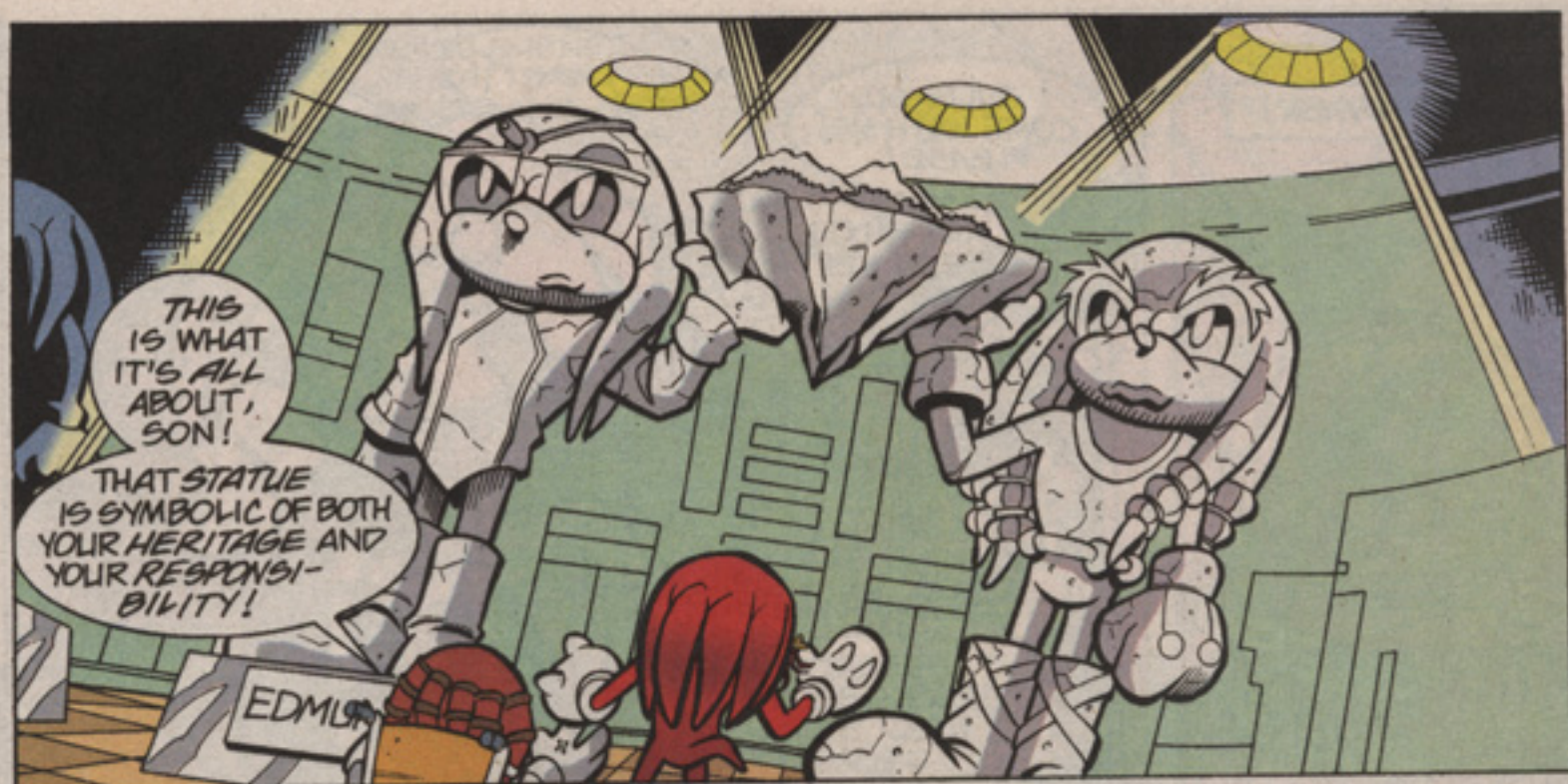
--THE HYPER ZONE PROJECTOR.

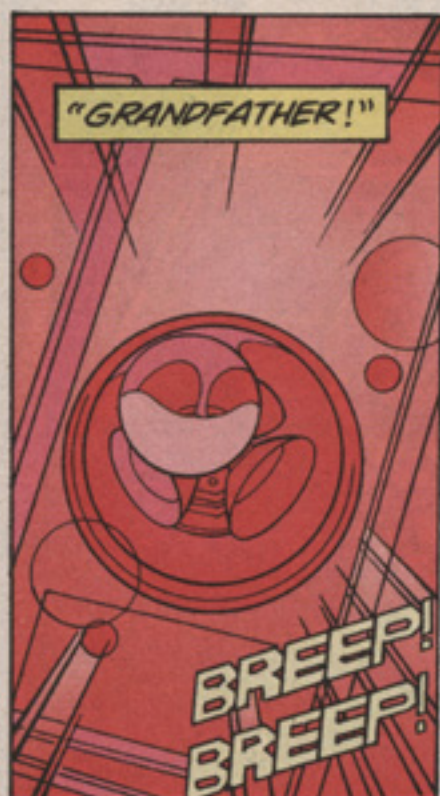
WE WOULD USE IT TO TRANSPORT ECHIDNA-
NAPOLIS AND ITS
CITIZENS TO THE SAFE
ENVIRONMENT OF
ANOTHER ZONE ON A
TEMPORARY BASIS--

--UNTIL SUCH TIME
AS THE RADIOACTIVE
WASTE
WAS CLEANED UP.









"GRANDFATHER!"

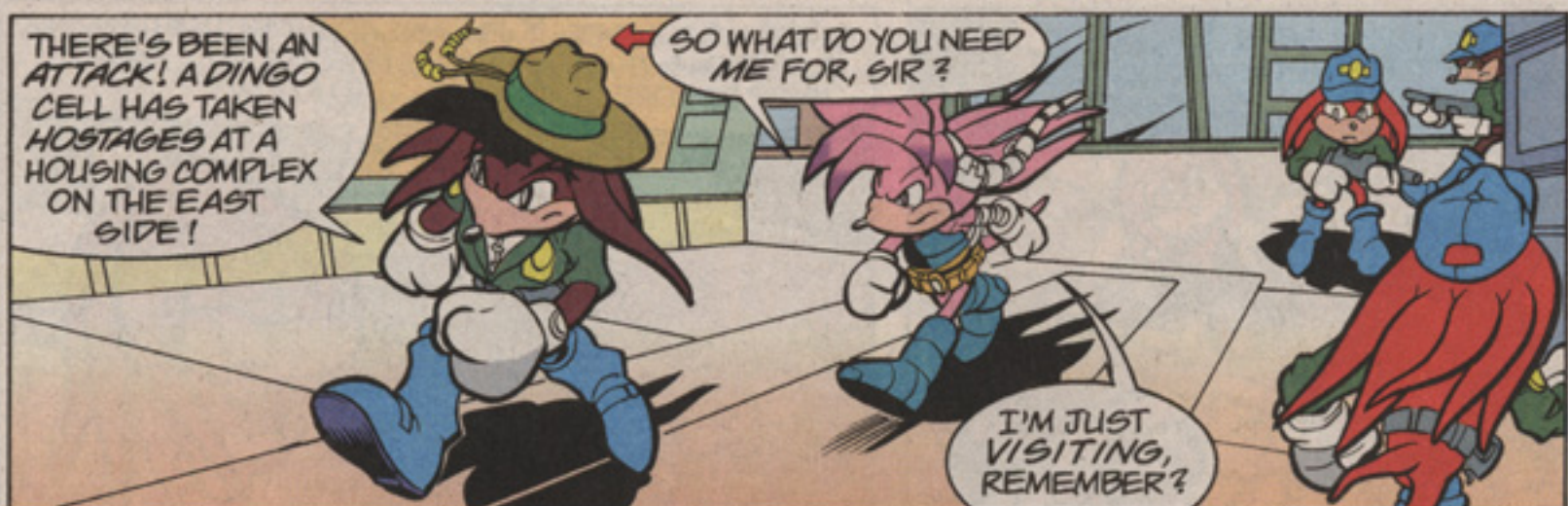
BREEP!
BREEP!



JULIE-SU,
COME WITH ME,
PLEASE!

HEY, WHY'VE
I BEEN KEPT HERE
SINCE THAT CRAZY
CHUTE RIDE?!?

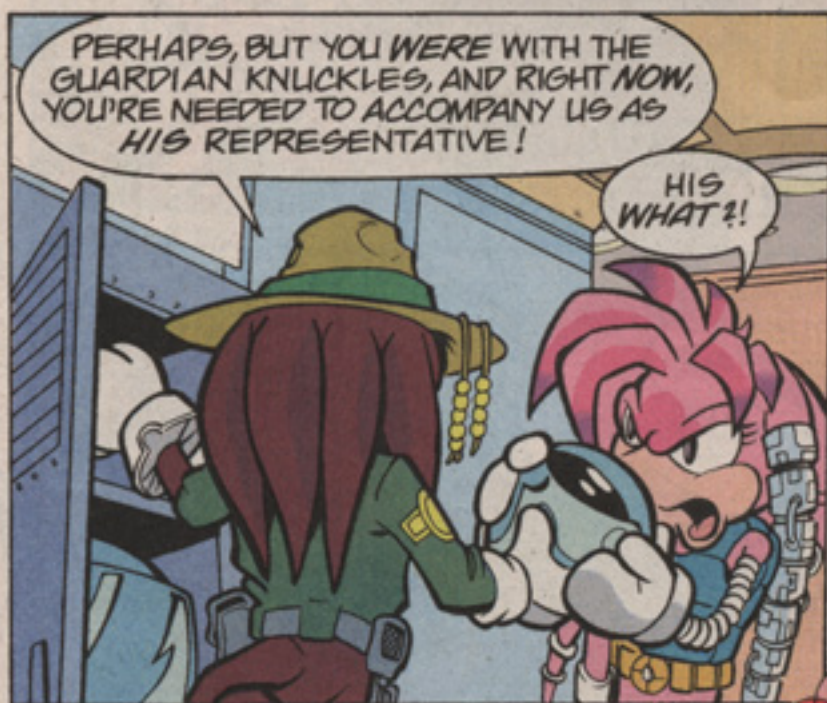
SECURITY
REASONS, BUT NOW
I NEED YOUR
HELP!



THERE'S BEEN AN
ATTACK! A DINGO
CELL HAS TAKEN
HOSTAGES AT A
HOUSING COMPLEX
ON THE EAST
SIDE!

SO WHAT DO YOU NEED
ME FOR, SIR?

I'M JUST
VISITING,
REMEMBER?



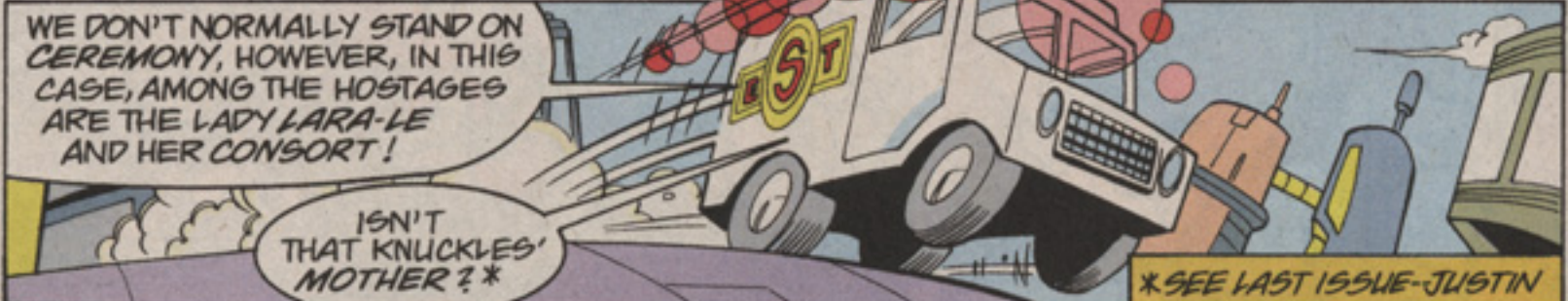
PERHAPS, BUT YOU WERE WITH THE
GUARDIAN KNUCKLES, AND RIGHT NOW,
YOU'RE NEEDED TO ACCOMPANY US AS
HIS REPRESENTATIVE!

HIS
WHAT?!



GET IN THE
VAN!!

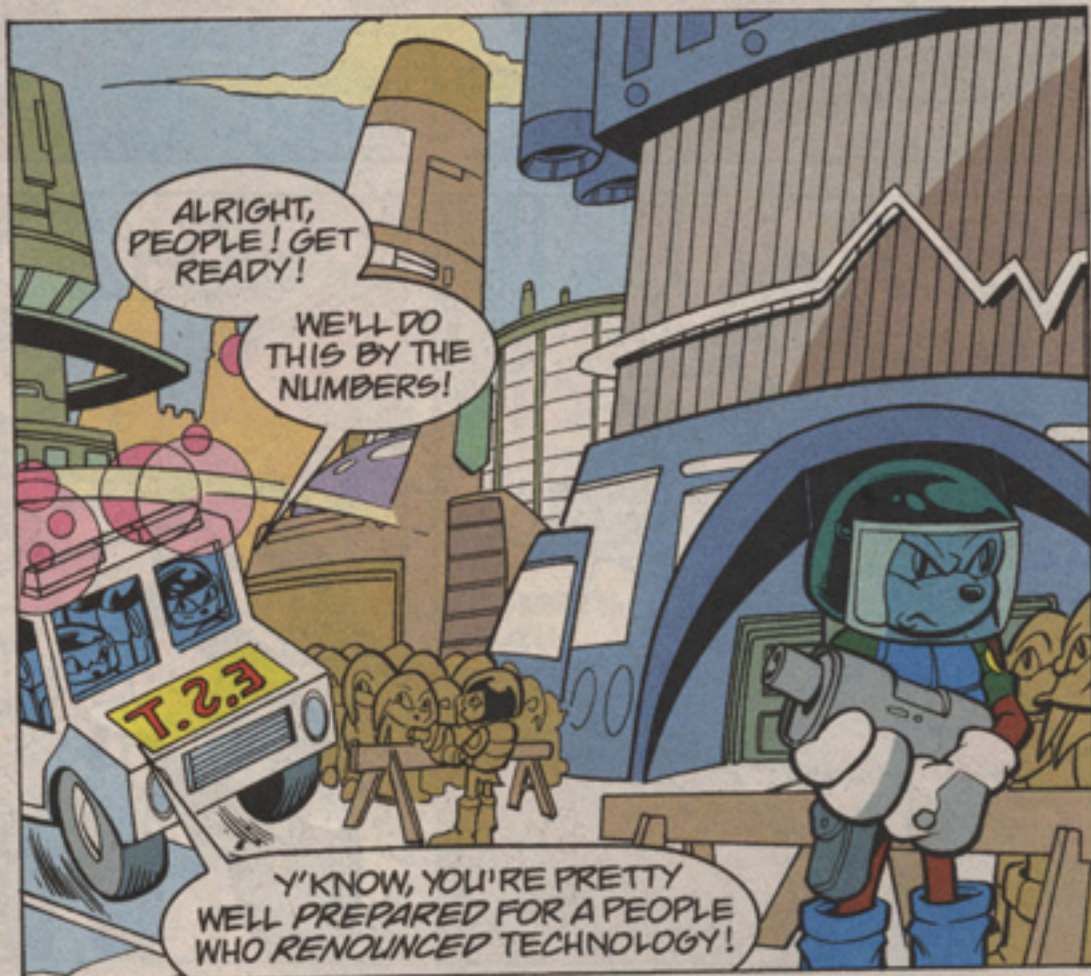
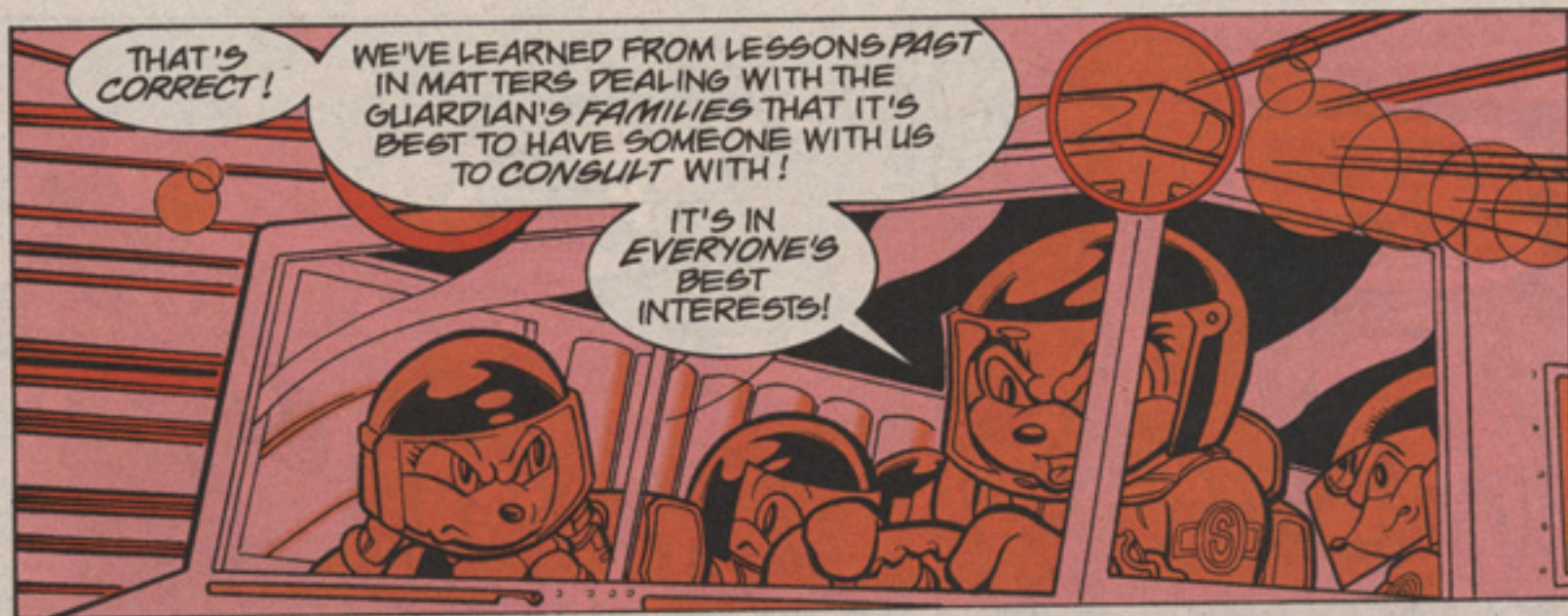
I'LL
EXPLAIN AS
WE GO!



WE DON'T NORMALLY STAND ON
CEREMONY, HOWEVER, IN THIS
CASE, AMONG THE HOSTAGES
ARE THE LADY LARA-LE
AND HER CONSORT!

ISN'T
THAT KNUCKLES'
MOTHER? *

*SEE LAST ISSUE-JUSTIN





WORSE

THAN THAT!

THEY'VE
GOT MY
MOTHER!

LIVE AT
ECHIDNA
TOWERS

STAY
CALM
KID!

I'M
SURE THERE'S
A PLAN!

YOU BETTER
BELIEVE IT!

THE
QUESTION
BEFORE US,
KNUCKLES--

--IS WHETHER
YOU'RE READY TO
HANDLE IT!

**TO BE
CONTINUED!**



J. Freddy Gabrie
Editor



Since the announcement

of last issue's contest, those letters of yours are coming in as fast and furious as Sonic himself! For those of you just joining in, we issued a contest for best letters page suggestion. Prizes will be given away. Check out last issue for details.

Next Month: With all that's been happening lately, The Floating Island has never been busier. Everything comes to a head as **Knuckles** risks it all to save his mom from the **Dingoes**. What will happen to **Echidnaopolis**? Is it back for good... or will it be destroyed? What lengths will **General Stryker** go to win? These questions and more will be answered in the conclusion of "The Lost Paradise!" in **KNUCKLES #6** on sale Aug. '97!

In other Mobian news... **You** are cordially invited to the celebration of a lifetime — **The Knothole Victory Party!** Let the festivities get under way. But things are not always what they seem as a hidden enemy roboticizes everyone near and dear to Sonic The Hedgehog! Is **Dr. Robotnik** really gone or has someone else taken over? Story by **Karl Bollers**. Art by **Sam Maxwell** and **Andrew Pepoy**. **SONIC #51** on sale July '97!

Prepare yourself for something different as Sonic falls into a zone with a few minor surprises (and one or two major ones to boot). This one must be seen for yourself. Story by **Tom Rolston**. Art by **Manny Galan** and **Jim Amash**. Also in this issue... **Princess Sally** contacts the major **Freedom Fighters** of the world. What for? Find out in this story written by **Karl Bollers** with art by **Art Mawhinney** and **Jim Amash**. **SONIC # 52** on sale Aug. '97!

FREDDY



KNUCKLES #6
On sale AUGUST 1997



SONIC #51
On sale JULY 1997

Send your letters to:
KNUCKLES-GRAMS #5
c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc.
P.O. Box 419
Mamaroneck, NY 10543-0419
E-mail address:
SonicNotes@aol.com

P.S.: **SONIC SUPER SPECIAL #1:**
A Brave New World is coming! 'Nuff said!



SONIC #52
On sale AUGUST 1997

Dear Knuckles,

I just received the first two issues of **KNUCKLES: THE DARK LEGION**! Like Tony the Tiger, I think "They're Grrrrreat!" I absolutely loved it! You can tell when I like a comic because when I read it I get hyper. It would be the bomb, if you get your own regular series. I have some questions for you: 1) What happened to Dimitri's son Menniker in issue one? How come he wasn't shown again? 2) You're an only child. Is your father an only child, too?

Well, I'll close with the artwork in "THE DARK LEGION" series is the best work Manny Galan has ever done! His artwork has really improved since "SONICQUEST: THE DEATH EGG SAGA" series! Also, I think Ken Penders and Kent Taylor make a great writing team. Keep up the good work.

Jessica "Sodapop" Levine (Age 13)
Thornton, IL

Hey, "Sodapop," thanks for your "Grrrrreat" compliment. I hope you didn't get hurt bouncing off those walls. If it continues, I'm going to have to issue warnings on the covers of my books saying: "Caution: The contents in this issue might cause temporary wall-bouncing!" Well, on to your questions: 1) By now you know that Menniker was the first Grandmaster of The Dark Legion. In effect, he was shown again. 2) As far as I know, dad was an only child.

Dear Knuckles,

I think you're way cool! My mom said Sonic is cooler, but compared to you, Sonic is the most uncool guy on Mobius. I have some questions for you to answer: 1) Why did your father enter The Forbidden Zone? 2) Where did you get your sneakers? They're much cooler than Sonic's. 3) Do you have a sensitive side besides your macho side? 4) Do you have a mother? 5) Can I join The Chaotix? Well, here are the lyrics for a Knuckles song sung to the tune of Sonic's animated theme song: "Rad red flies by. Knuckles The Echidna. He is a strong guy. Knuckles The Echidna. Knuckles, he can really fly. Knuckles, he's got an eagle eye. Knuckles, he's the coolest thing alive. Watch out or he'll get you. Knuckles The Echidna. Don't doubt what he can do. Knuckles The Echidna. Knuckles, he can really fly. Knuckles, he's got an eagle eye. Knuckles, he's the coolest thing alive."

Kyle Kunesch
Covina, CA

Thanks for writing my own song, Kyle. I always thought I was as cool (if not cooler) than Sonic. He can sometimes get a little obnoxious, you know. 1) I don't know why my dad entered into The Forbidden Zone but I hope to find out some day. 2) My dad gave them to me before he left me. 3) I'd like to

think so but I'd never admit it. 4) Uh, yeah. 5) Only if you promise to protect The Floating Island and to read my book every month. Deal?

Dear Knuckles,

I started reading Sonic comics a few years ago when they were very hard to find. Now I see them in more stores making it that much easier to get all the issues I want. I also collect any Sonic mini-series I see. That's when I first saw you and I enjoy reading your adventures, too. Question time: 1) How are The Chaotix doing? 2) Do you think Robotnik will try to launch a surprise attack on The Floating Island? 3) How old are you?

Eric Ashmore
Carrollton, GA

Answer time: 1) The Chaotix are doing just fine, thanks. 2) Now that Robotnik's been defeated, I don't think that's happening any time soon. 3) I am fifteen years old.



Dear Sonic-Notes,

I love your comic and the staff is doing a great job! I have questions from a Knuckles fan: 1) Is Knuckles' dad's name Steppenwolf? 2) Is the Knuckles comic going to get a new bad guy or are they going to wear out The Dark Legion just like they did with Robuttnik?

Drew Lyons
iceddrew@juno.com

Thanks for the kind words, Drew. 1) My dad's name is Locke. Steppenwolf is an ancestor. 2) Don't worry about how many bad guys we have because, unfortunately, we have plenty of them. Bad guys from Enerjak to Mammoth Mogul; from Kragok and The Dark Legion to General Stryker and The Dingoes. How's that for starters?

Well, that's it for this month. This is Knuckles—signing off! See you next month!

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